

LOKAMANYA TILAK

'Swaraj is my birthright and I shall have it' -- this clarion call was given by Bal Gangadhar Tilak. He was a towering figure in the Indian Independence movement. A nationalist to the core, he believed strongly that modern education would inculcate patriotism and self-respect in the people. His inspiring speeches and writing landed Tilak in jail several times. But this did not dampen his spirit or will to cast off the yoke of foreign rule from his motherland.

VISIONARIES



LOKAMANYA TILAK

FIREBRAND NATIONALIST

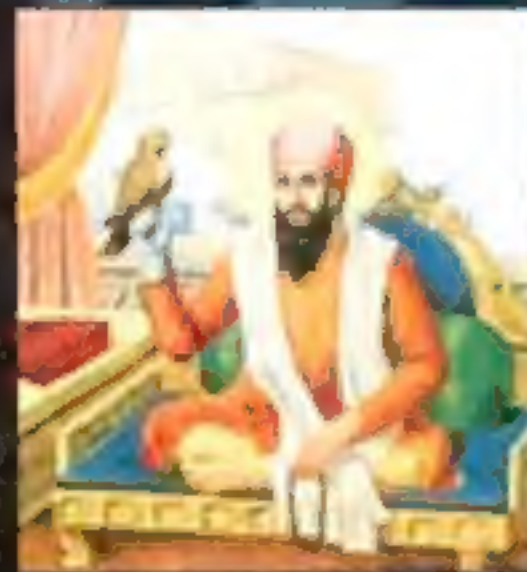
Vol 645 | ₹50

OTHER ACK VISIONARIES

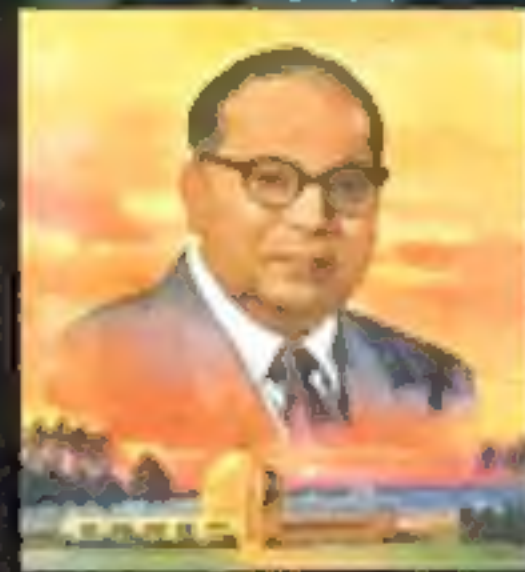
SUBRAMANIA
BHARATI



GURU TEGH
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BABASAHEB
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JAYAPRAKASH
NARAYAN



ALSO LOOK FOR:

PRAHLAD



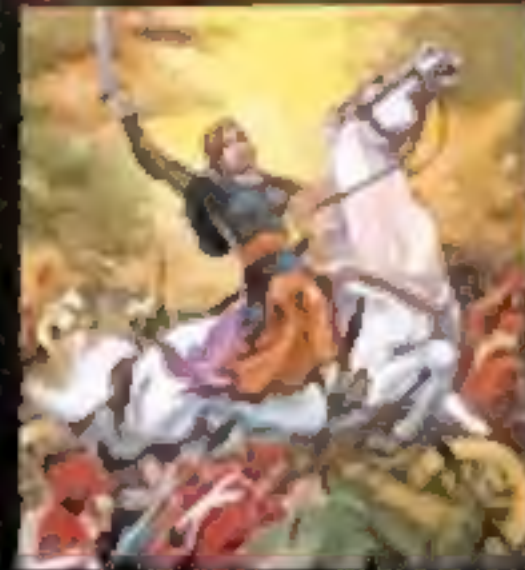
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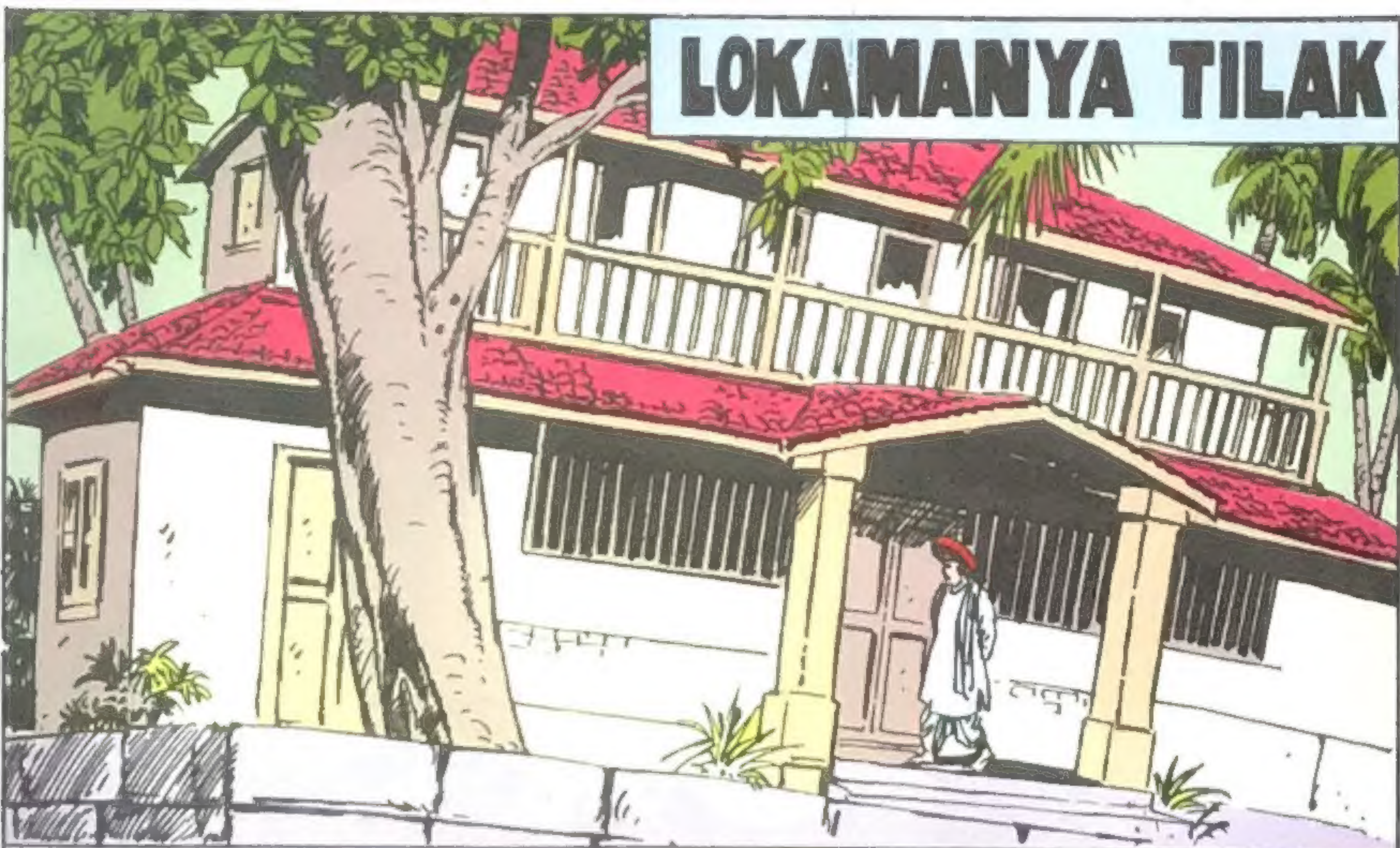
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LOKAMANYA TILAK



ON JULY 23, 1856, GANGADHAR PANT TILAK, THE HEADMASTER OF THE LOCAL MARATHI SCHOOL IN RATNAGIRI, WAS PACING UP AND DOWN THE VERANDA OF HIS HOUSE. HIS WIFE WAS ABOUT TO HAVE A BABY.

HE HAD THREE DAUGHTERS, BUT LIKE OTHER PARENTS OF HIS TIME HE LONGED FOR A SON.



AUNTY'S TEASING YOU, DADA! IT'S A BOY!

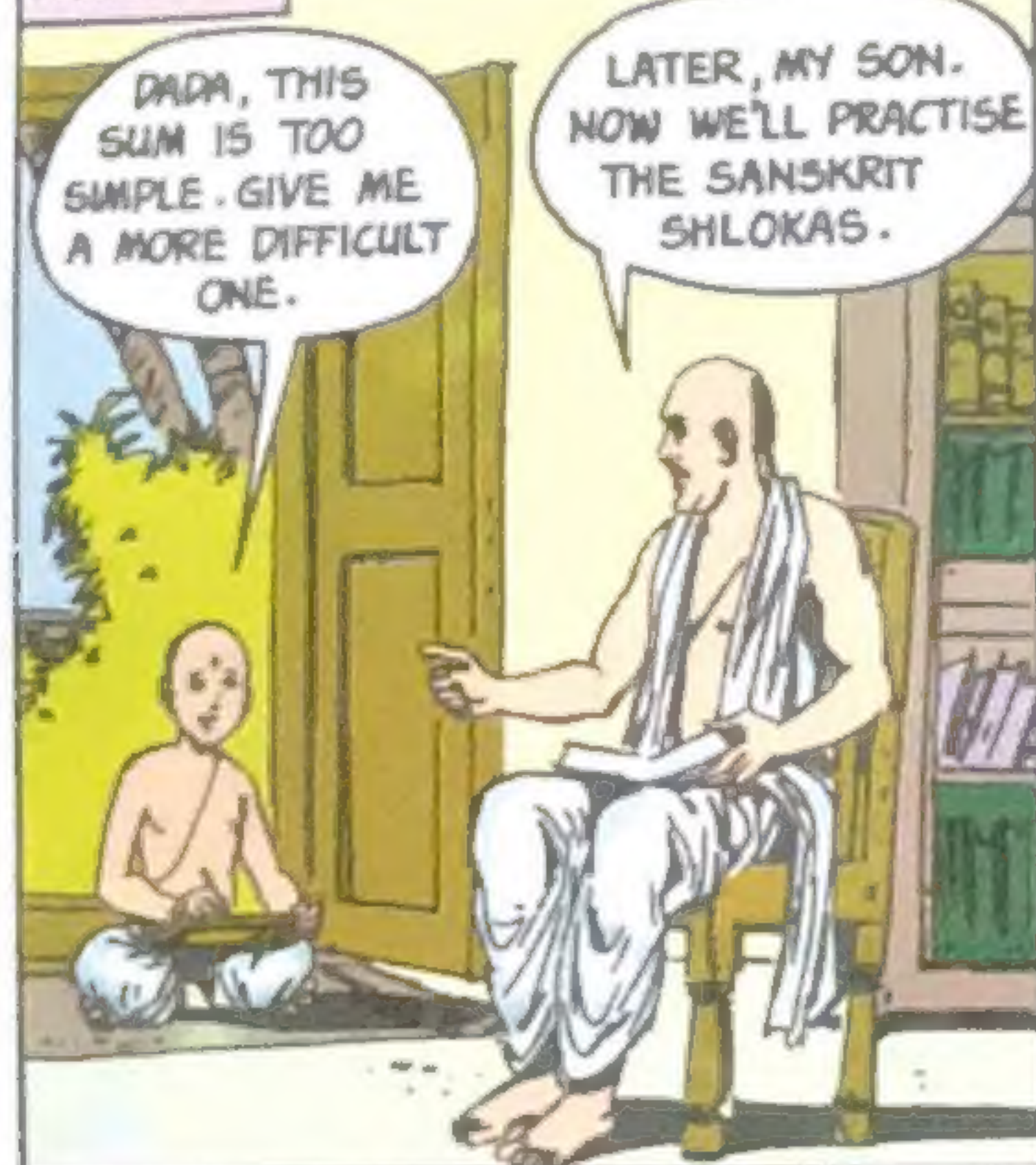
YES, IT IS. BUT DON'T BE JUBILANT AND INVITE BAD LUCK.

OH! HOW SUPERSTITIOUS CAN YOU GET! LIKE WHOM DOES HE LOOK?



WHOEVER HE LOOKED LIKE, THE CHILD, BAL GANGADHAR TILAK, WAS DESTINED TO BECOME GREAT

BAL HAD HIS EARLY EDUCATION AT HOME, UNDER THE STRICT SUPERVISION OF HIS FATHER.



DADA, THIS SUM IS TOO SIMPLE. GIVE ME A MORE DIFFICULT ONE.

LATER, MY SON. NOW WE'LL PRACTISE THE SANSKRIT SHLOKAS.

WHEN BAL WAS TEN YEARS OLD, HIS FATHER WAS TRANSFERRED TO PUNE.



THIS IS A GODSEND! BAL CAN NOW GO TO THE BEST OF SCHOOLS.

SHORTLY AFTER THEY CAME TO PUNE, BAL'S MOTHER DIED. IT WAS HIS AUNT WHO NOW LOOKED AFTER HIM.



BAL, YOU'VE FORGOTTEN YOUR SLATE.

BUT I DON'T NEED IT, AUNTY.



I CAN DO SUMS IN MY MIND.

I KNOW, I KNOW. BUT YOU MUST CARRY A SLATE. ALL THE OTHER BOYS DO.

BAL WAS NO DOUBT INTELLIGENT. BUT HE WAS, TO HIS TEACHER'S ANNOYANCE, EQUALLY STUBBORN. ONE DAY AT SCHOOL —



OH, NO! HE'S HERE! HE'S COME!

PUT AWAY THE PEANUTS! RUN TO YOUR SEATS! TAKE UP YOUR BOOKS!

THE TEACHER ENTERED AND TOOK ONE LOOK AT THE CLASS.



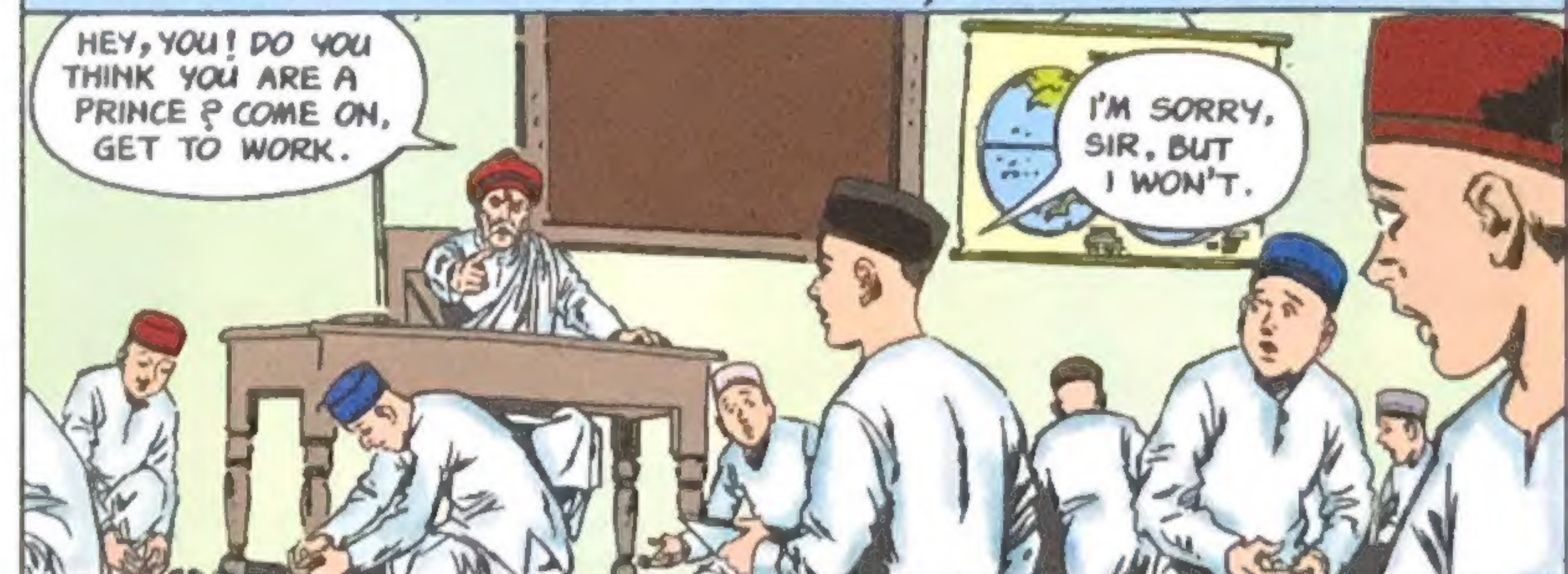
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? YOU OUGHT TO BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELVES!

WHEN THE BOYS PRETENDED TO BE SORRY FOR WHAT THEY HAD DONE, THE TEACHER RELENTED.



ALL RIGHT. THIS TIME I'LL LET YOU OFF. NOW CLEAN UP THE MESS, AND GET BACK TO YOUR WORK.

AS THE BOYS BENT DOWN TO PICK UP THE SHELLS, THE TEACHER'S EYE FELL ON BAL.



HEY, YOU! DO YOU THINK YOU ARE A PRINCE? COME ON, GET TO WORK.

I'M SORRY, SIR, BUT I WON'T.



WHAT!

I DIDN'T EAT IN CLASS. I DIDN'T MAKE THE MESS. SO WHY SHOULD I TAKE THE PUNISHMENT?

YOU IMPUDENT, OBSTINATE CHILD! I'LL TEACH YOU TO TALK BACK TO YOUR TEACHER!



BEFORE YOU DO, I AM GOING HOME, SIR. I WILL NOT SUBMIT TO UNFAIR TREATMENT.

TRUTHFUL, FEARLESS, PROUD — SUCH WAS THE STUFF BAL WAS MADE OF.

HE JOINED ANOTHER SCHOOL. BUT THOUGH HE WAS AN EXCELLENT STUDENT HE DID NOT DO WELL IN EXAMINATIONS.

WHY DO YOU ALWAYS PICK THE MOST DIFFICULT QUESTIONS, BAL? IF YOU ANSWERED THE EASY ONES, YOU'D GET FULL MARKS!

IT'S NOT MARKS THAT I'M AFTER. IT'S KNOWLEDGE. SO THERE'S NO POINT IN ATTEMPTING WHAT I ALREADY KNOW.



WHEN BAL WAS FIFTEEN, HE WAS MARRIED TO A TEN-YEAR-OLD GIRL NAMED SATYABHAMA. CHILD MARRIAGE WAS COMMON IN THOSE DAYS.



HIS FATHER-IN-LAW WANTED TO BUY HIM A PRESENT.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE A GOLD RING, BAL?

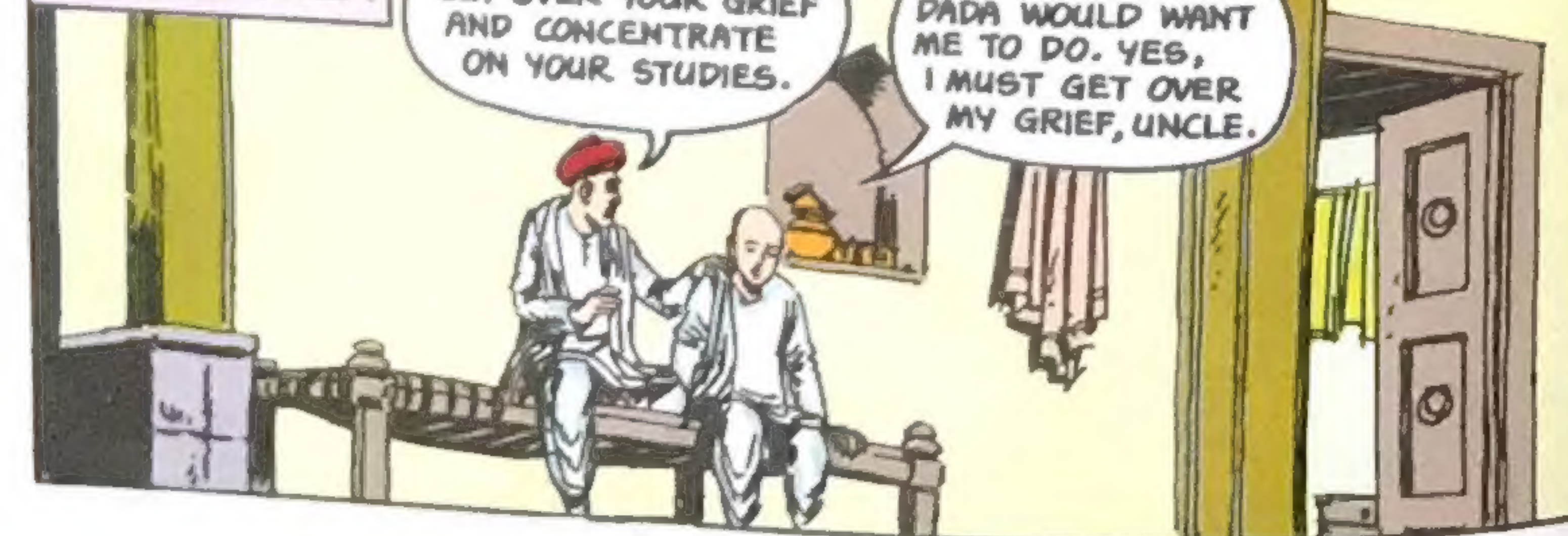
IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'D PREFER BOOKS. THEY ARE MORE VALUABLE.



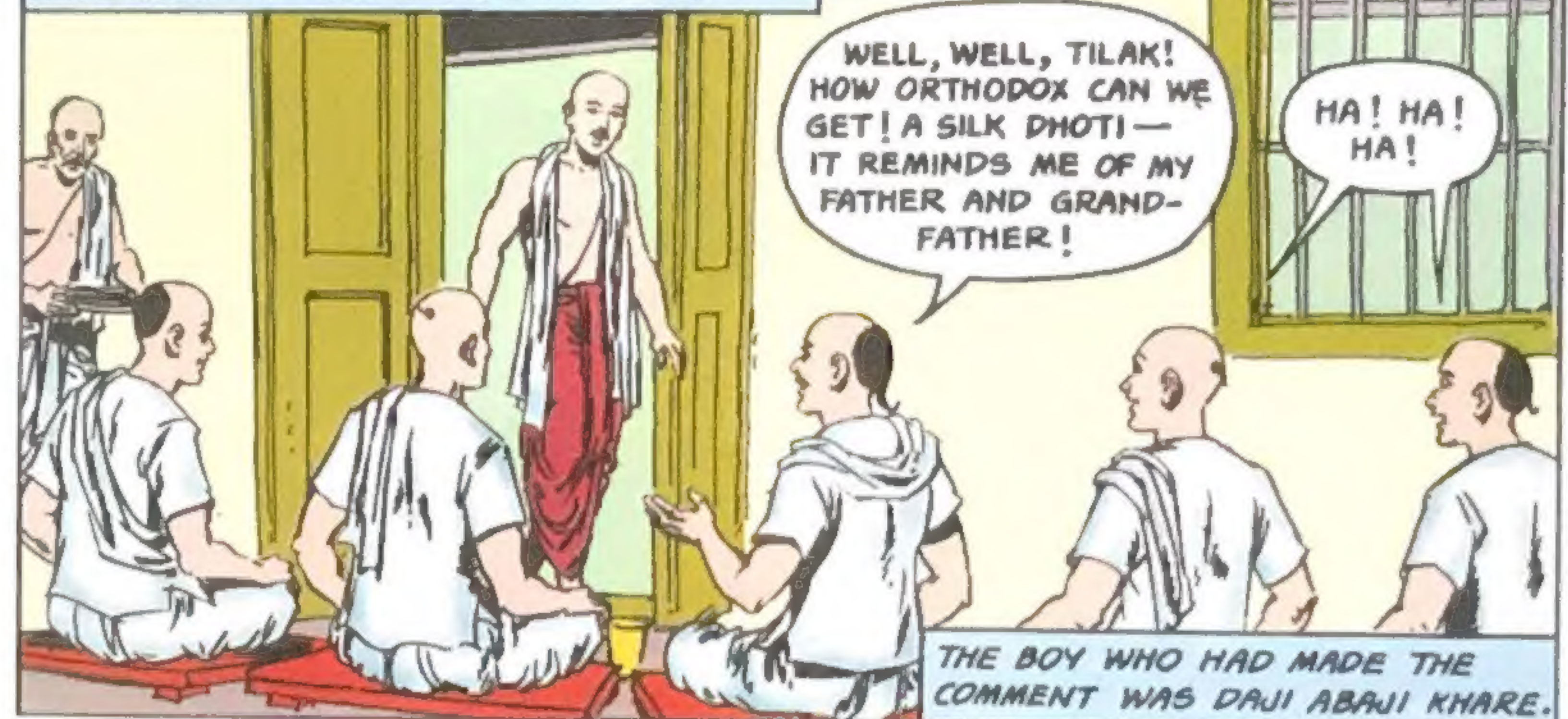
THAT SAME YEAR, BAL'S FATHER DIED.

BAL, YOU MUST GET OVER YOUR GRIEF AND CONCENTRATE ON YOUR STUDIES.

THAT'S WHAT PAPA WOULD WANT ME TO DO. YES, I MUST GET OVER MY GRIEF, UNCLE.



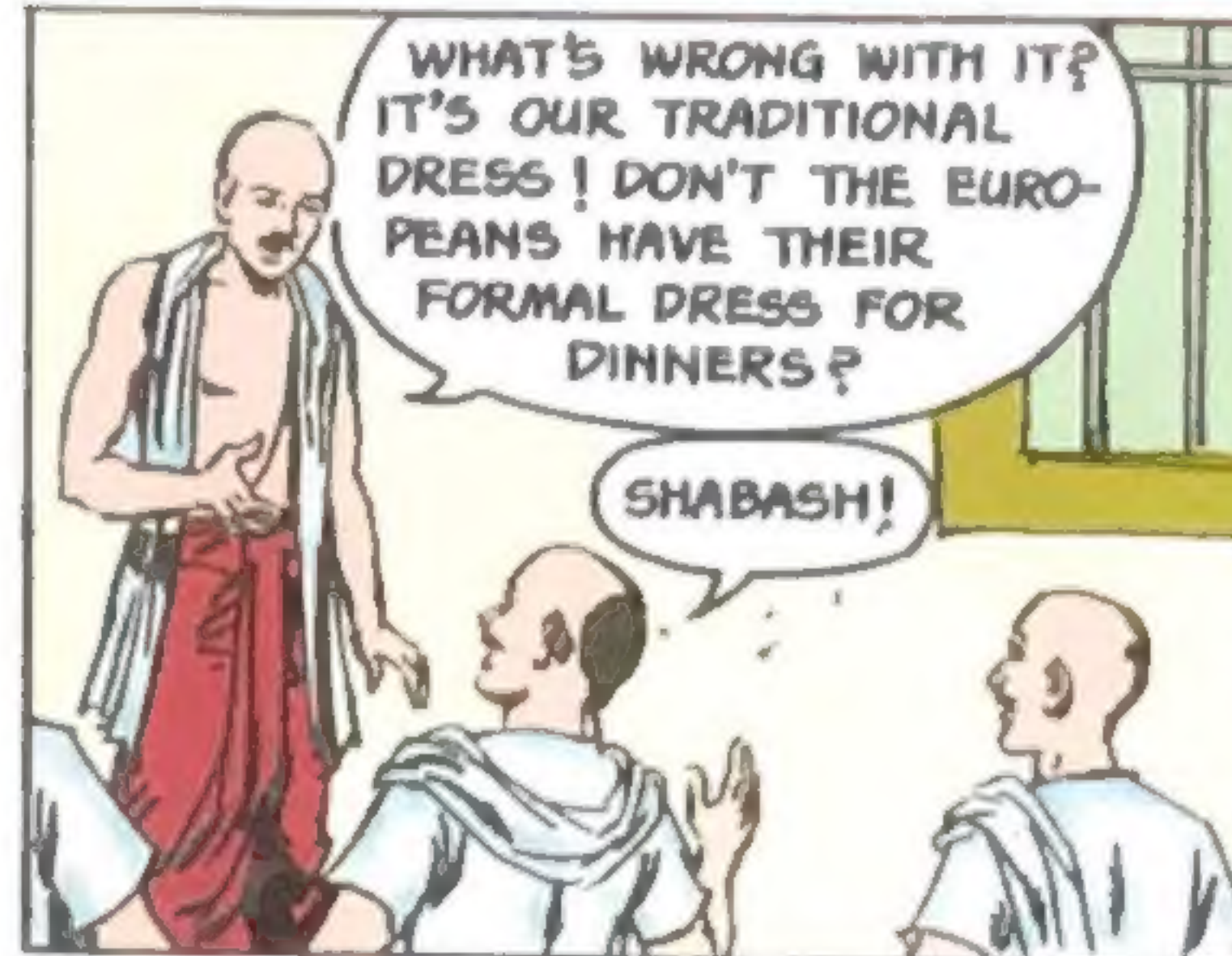
AND GET OVER IT HE DID. HE WAS SEVENTEEN WHEN HE JOINED THE DECCAN COLLEGE. ON THE FIRST DAY AS THE BOYS ASSEMBLED AT THE MESS FOR LUNCH —



WELL, WELL, TILAK! HOW ORTHODOX CAN WE GET! A SILK DHOTI — IT REMINDS ME OF MY FATHER AND GRAND-FATHER!

HA! HA! HA!

THE BOY WHO HAD MADE THE COMMENT WAS DAJI ABANJI KHARE.



WHAT'S WRONG WITH IT? IT'S OUR TRADITIONAL DRESS! DON'T THE EUROPEANS HAVE THEIR FORMAL DRESS FOR DINNERS?

SHABASH!

AFTER THE MEAL —



YOU ARE OUT-SPOKEN AREN'T YOU, TILAK? I HAVE MUCH TO LEARN FROM YOU.

AND, I, FROM YOU, KHARE.

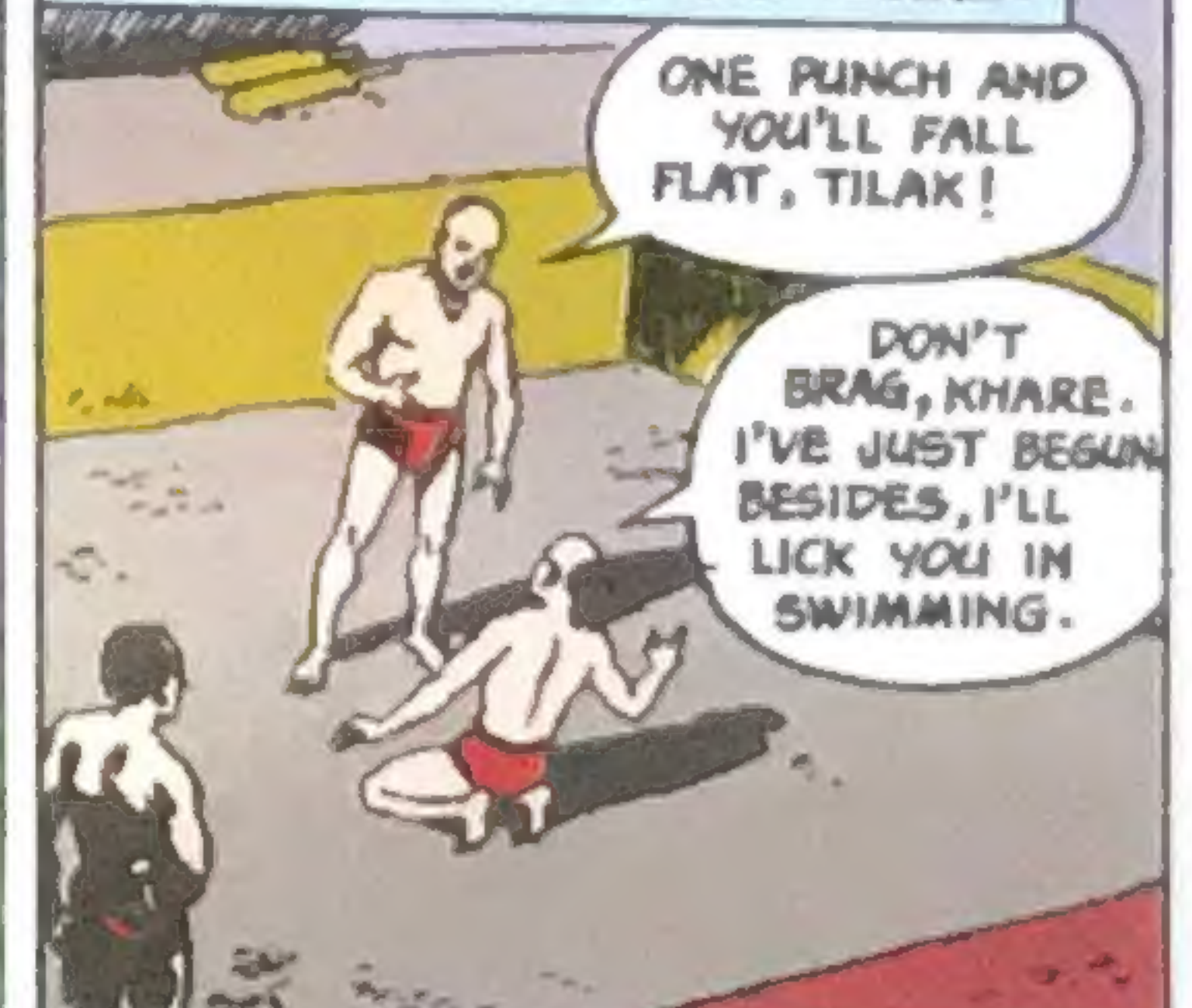
LATER, ON THEIR WAY TO COLLEGE —



I WANT TO IMPROVE MY PHYSIQUE, KHARE.

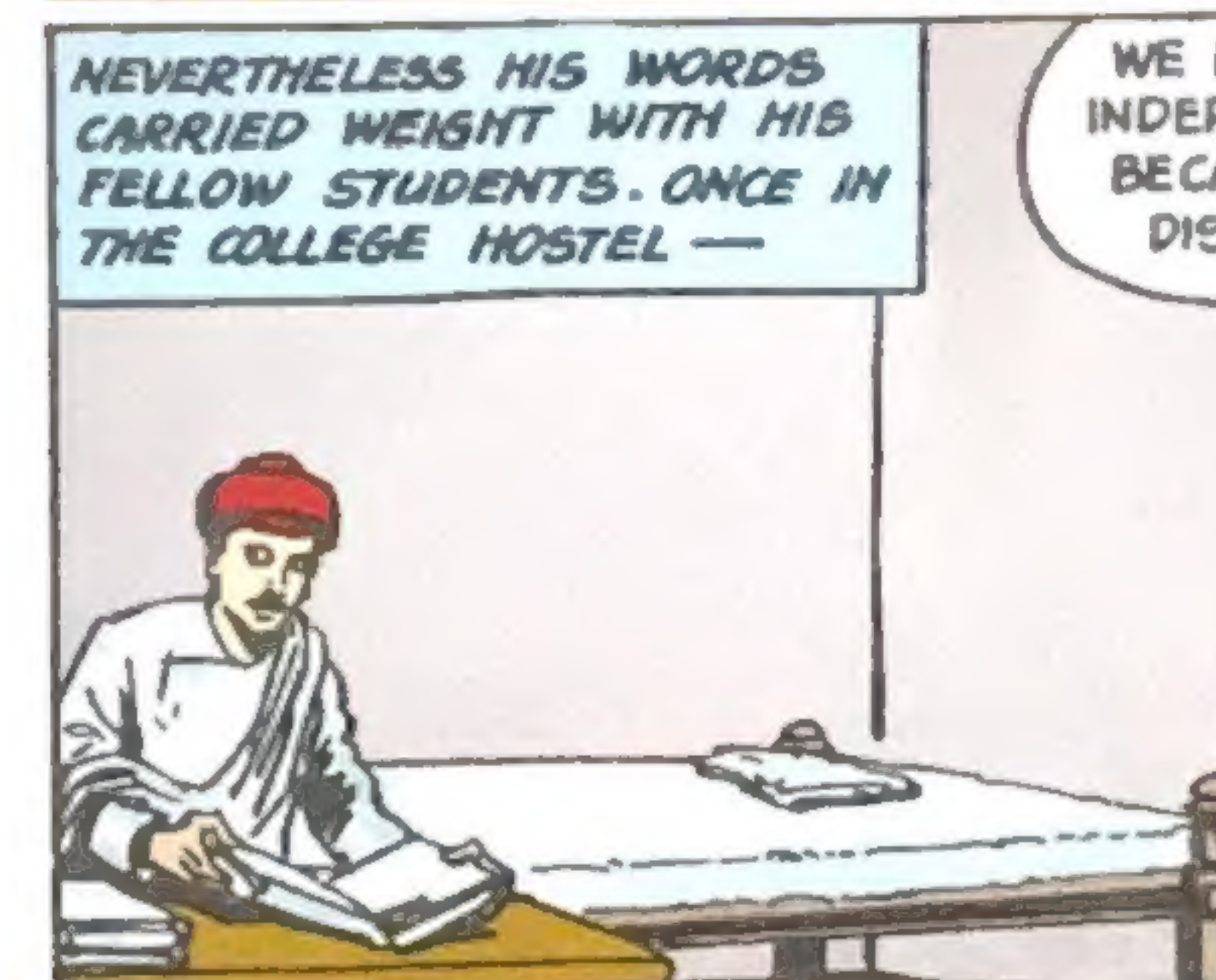
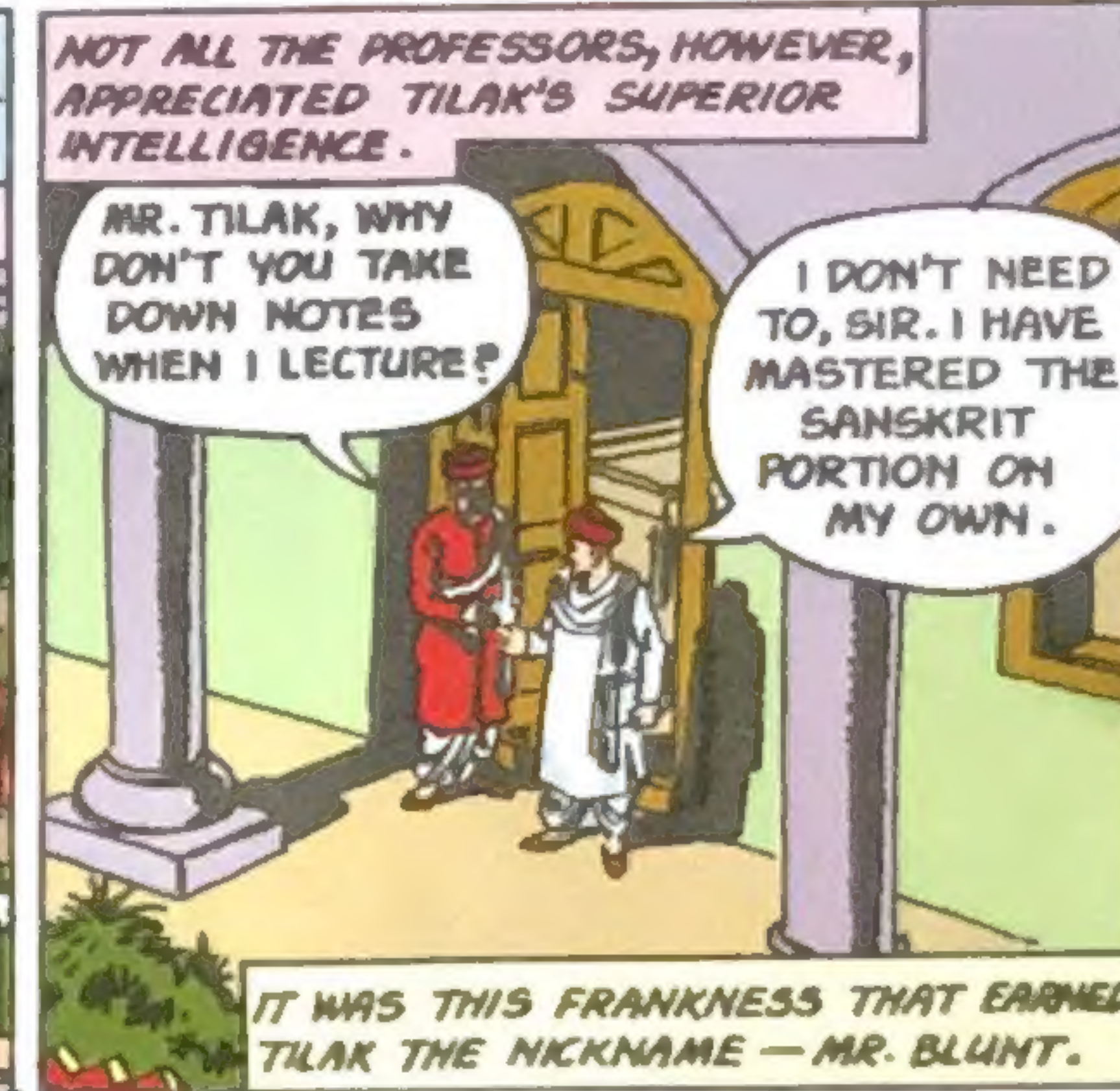
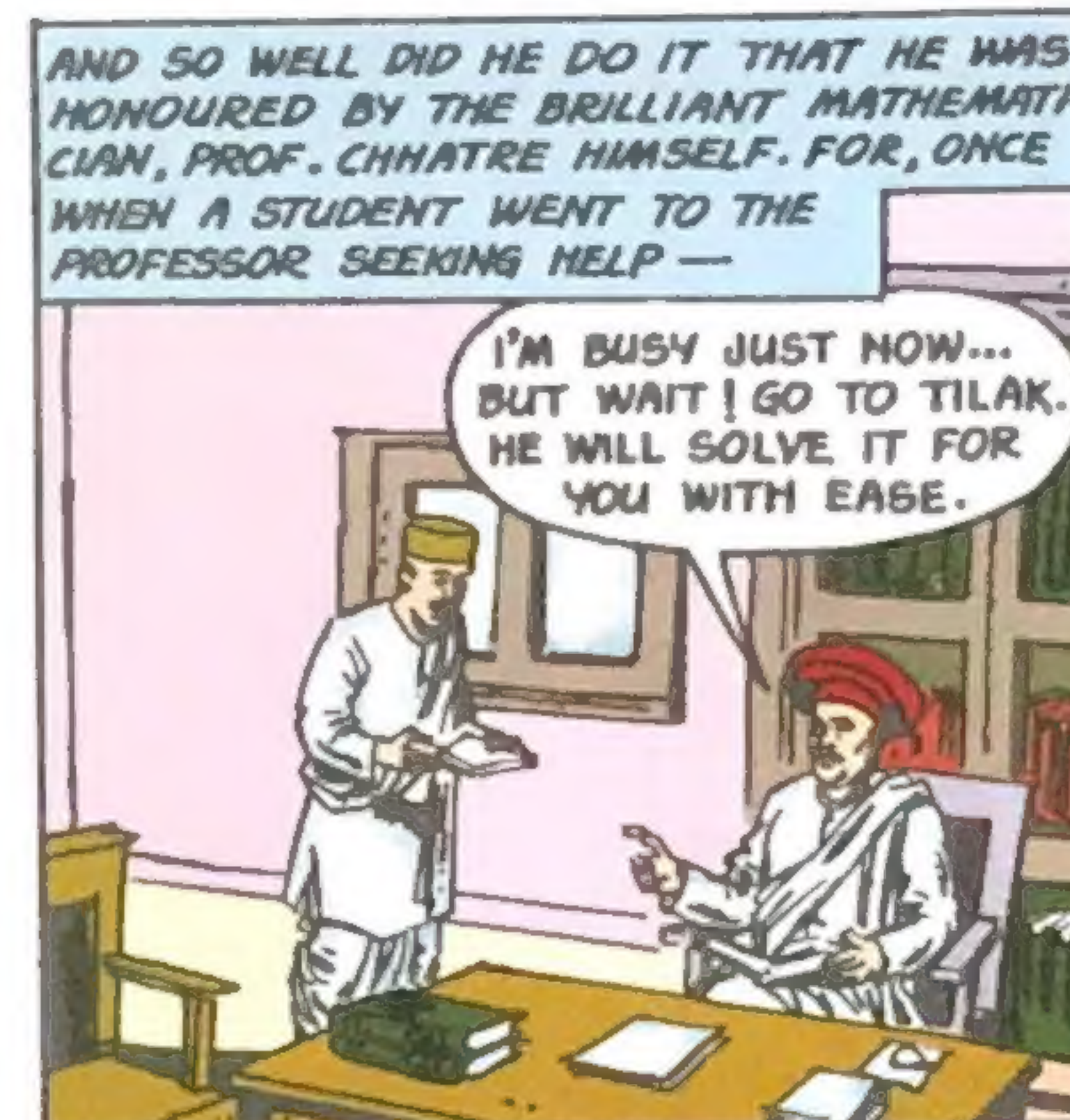
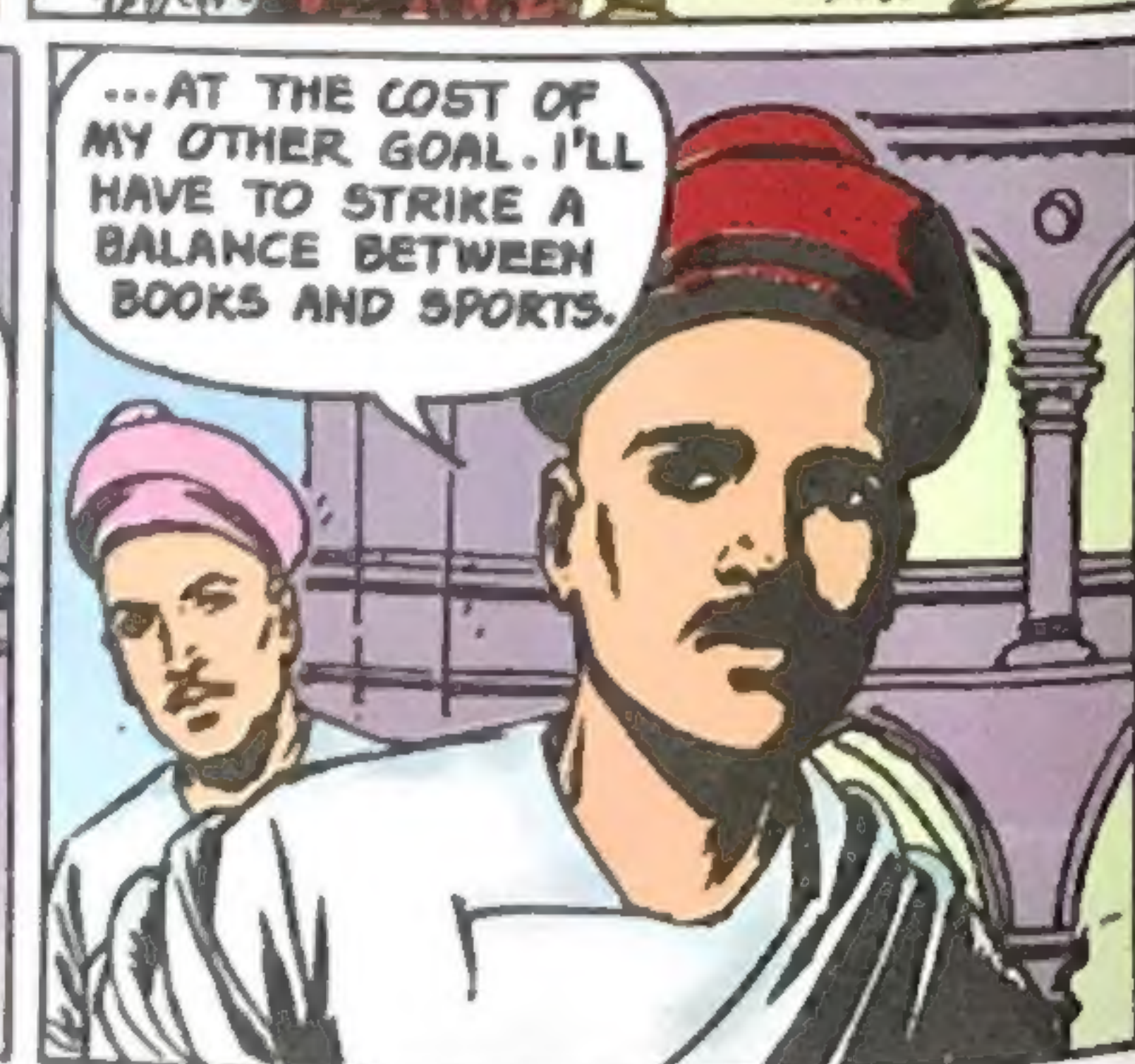
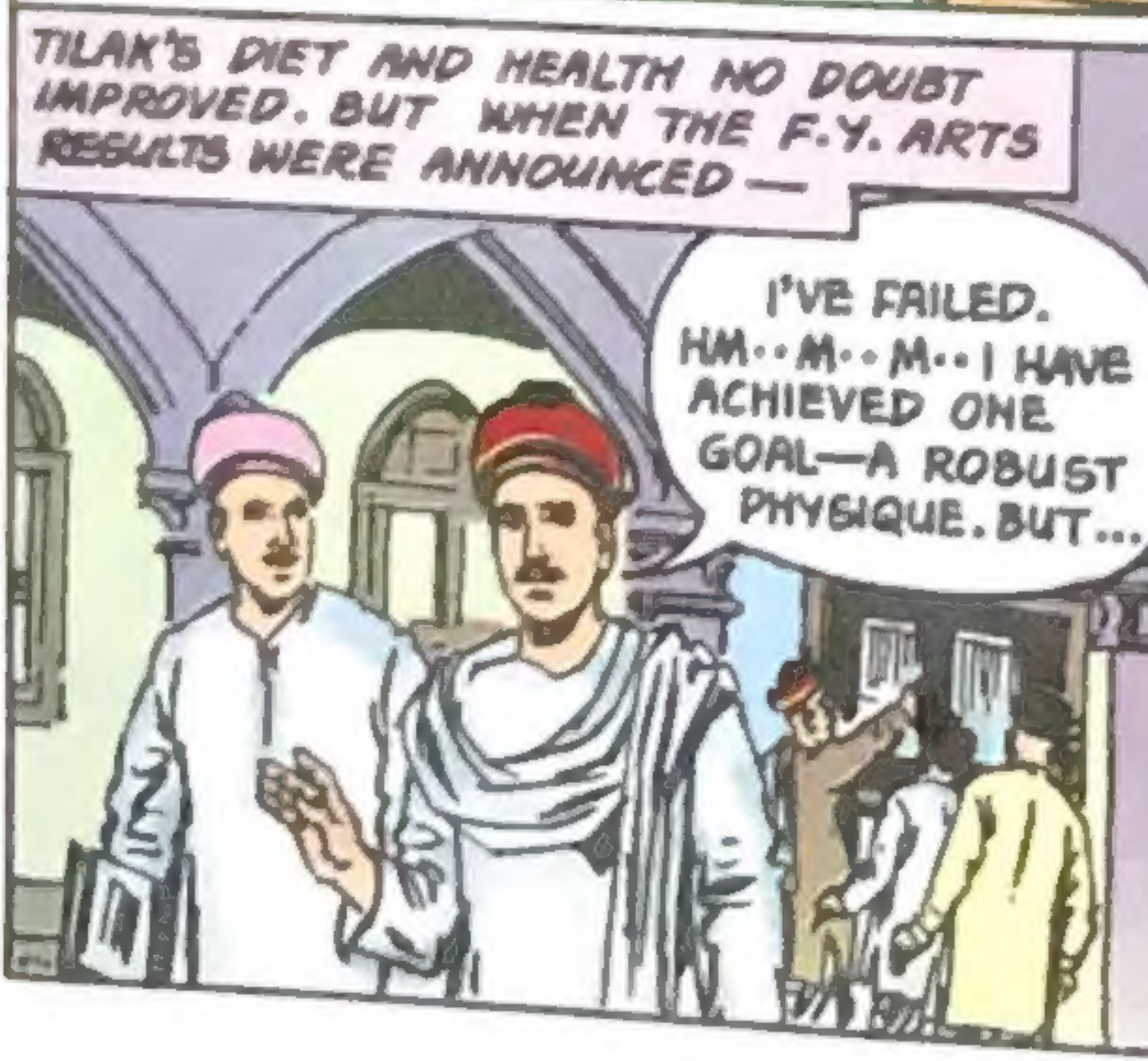
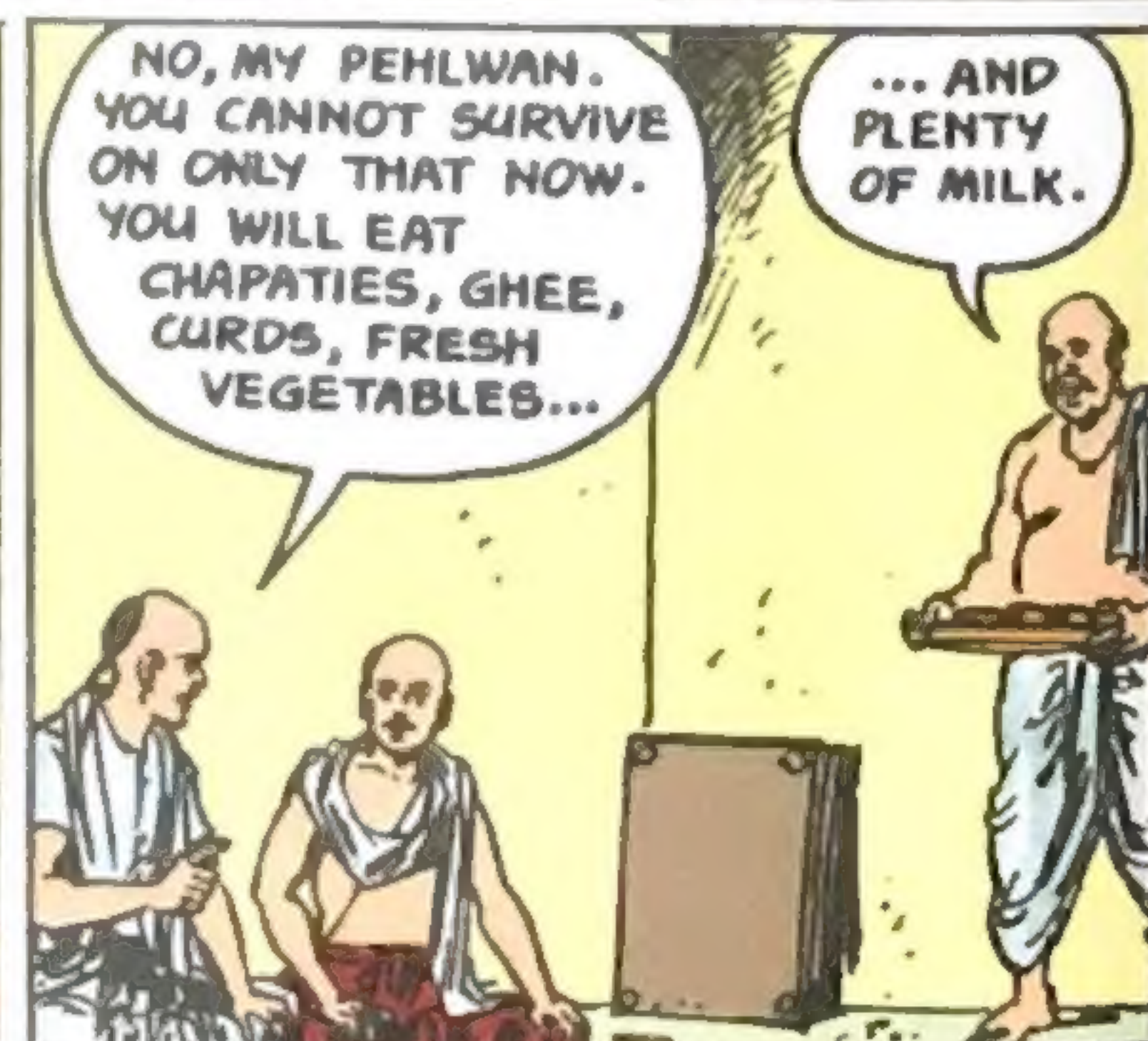
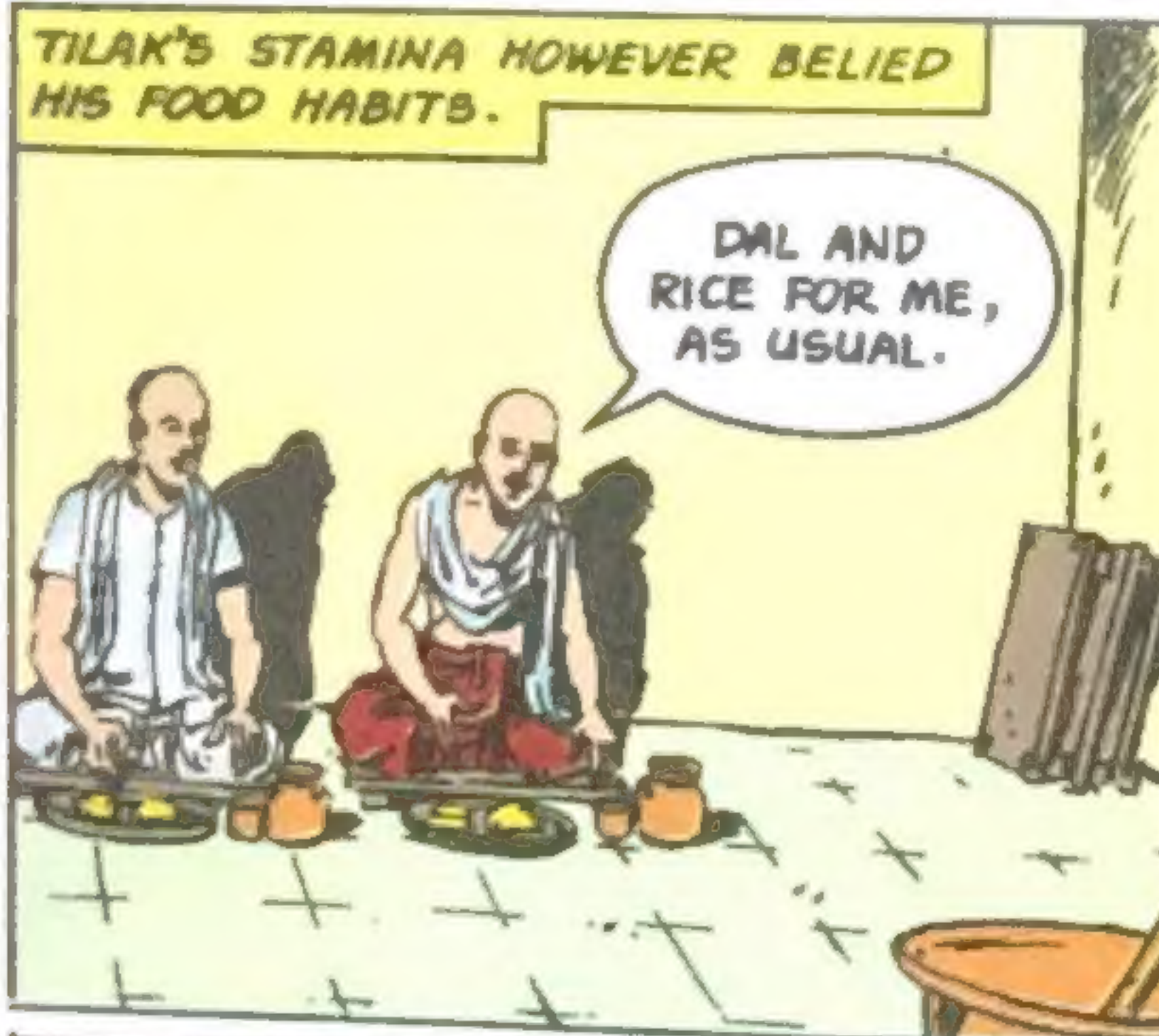
COME TO THE GYM WITH ME, THEN. I'LL MAKE YOU A PEHLWAN.*

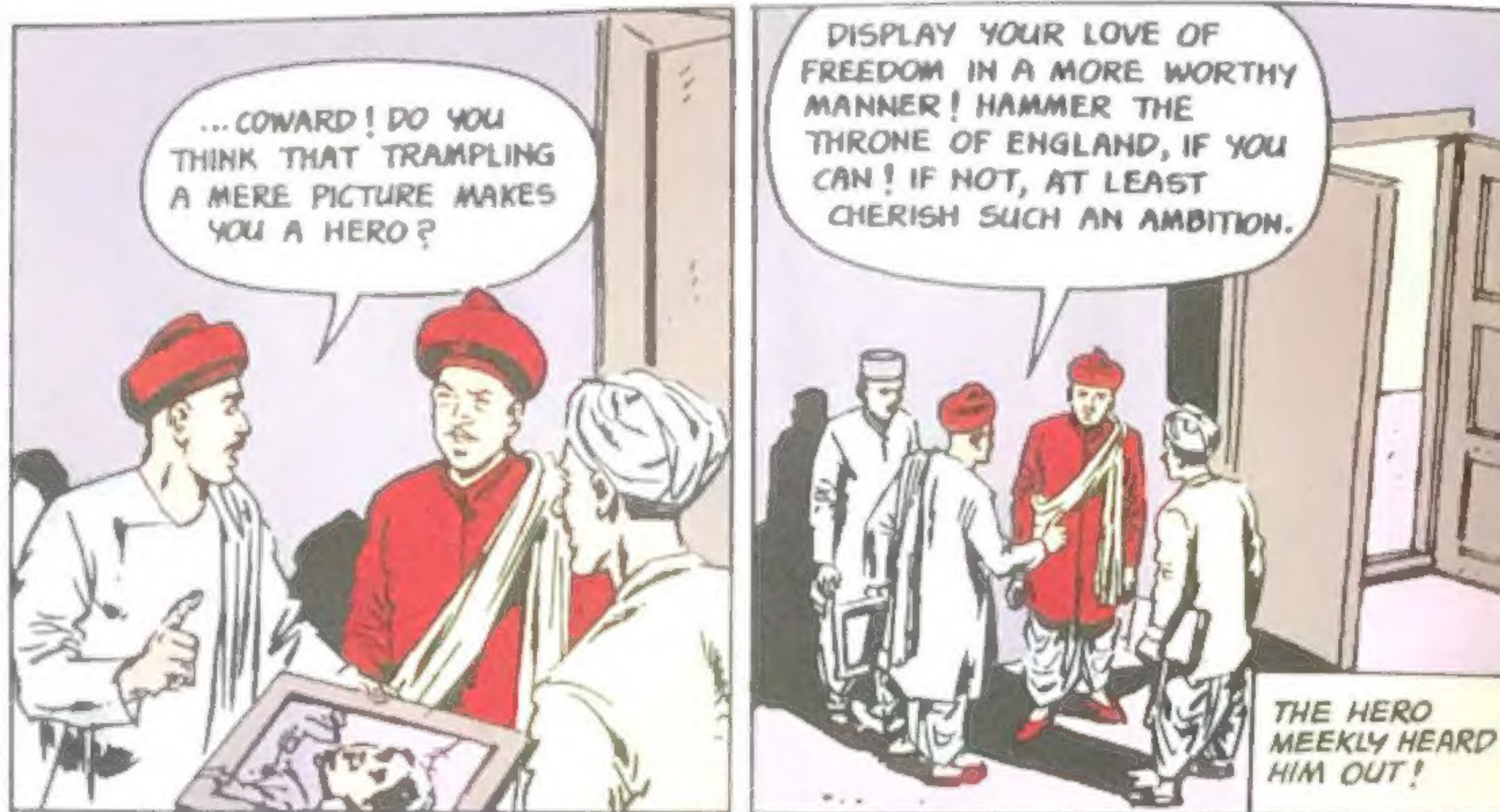
AND THUS BEGAN THE LIFELONG FRIENDSHIP OF TILAK AND KHARE.



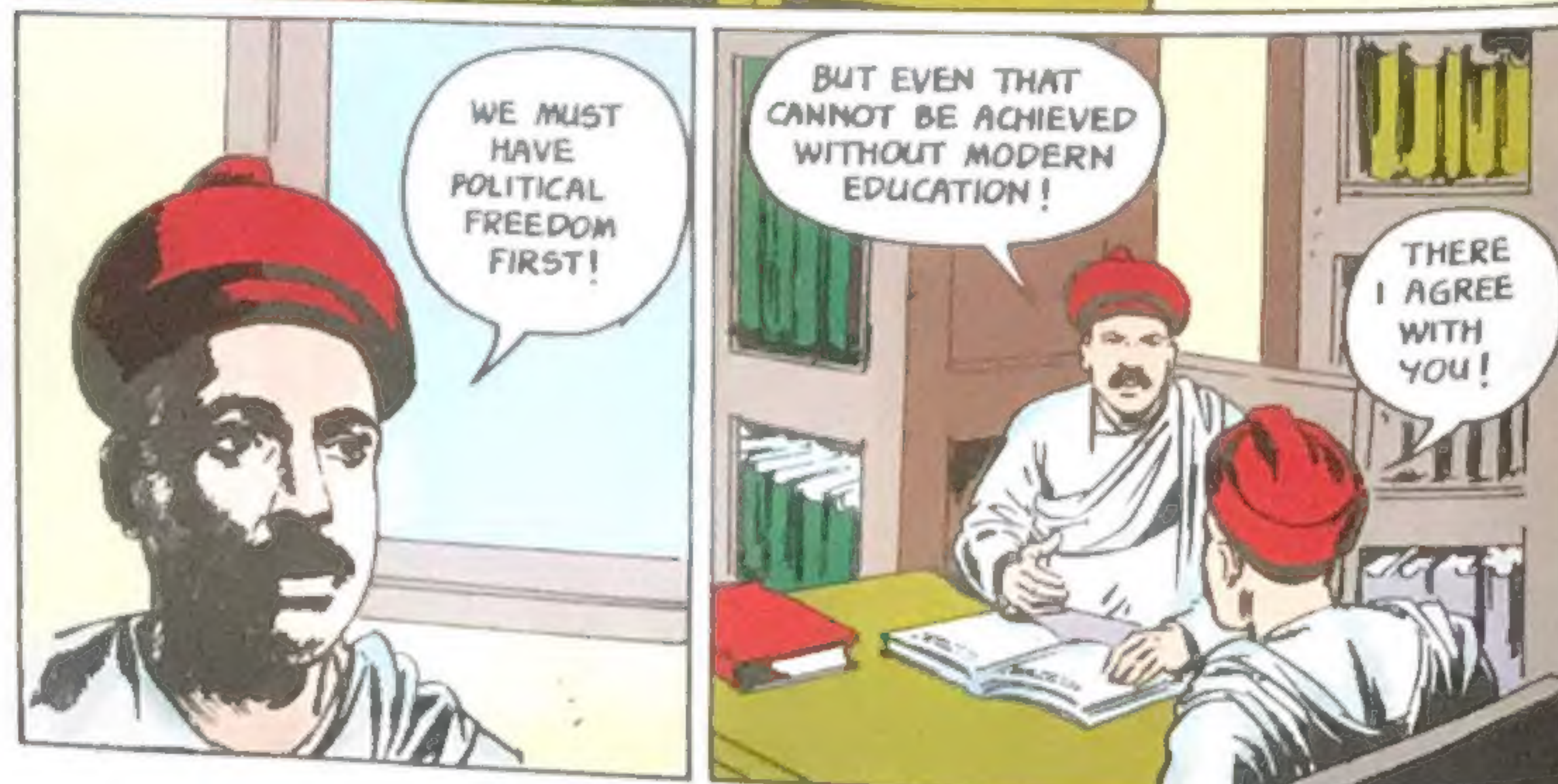
ONE PUNCH AND YOU'LL FALL FLAT, TILAK!

DON'T BRAG, KHARE. I'VE JUST BEGUN BESIDES, I'LL LICK YOU IN SWIMMING.





SOON AFTER GRADUATING IN ARTS, TILAK TOOK UP THE STUDY OF LAW. AROUND THAT TIME HE STRUCK UP A FRIENDSHIP WITH GOPAL GANESH AGARKAR, AN M.A. STUDENT, AND A BUDDING CHAMPION OF SOCIAL REFORMS.



THE IDEA WAS SOON PUT INTO SHAPE. WITH THE HELP OF VISHNUSHASTRI CHITPLUNKAR, THE TWO FRIENDS FOUNDED A SCHOOL.



THE NIGHT BEFORE THE INAUGURATION AS TILAK AND HIS CLOSE FRIEND NAMJOSHI WERE GOING THE ROUNDS —



THE TWO FRIENDS WORKED HARD.



AT THE END OF IT THEY WERE SO EXHAUSTED THAT...



... THEY FELL ASLEEP IN THE SCHOOL, WITH A BLACK BOARD FOR A BED!



THE SCHOOL ATTRACTED THE BEST OF TALENTS. SUCH AN ENCOURAGING RESPONSE INSPIRED THE FRIENDS TO WORK WITH GREATER ENTHUSIASM.



WE'RE LUCKY TO CATCH THEM' YOUNG. AND IF WE DON'T SUCCEED IN INCULCATING SELF-RESPECT AND LOVE FOR THE COUNTRY IN THEM...

WE WILL SUCCEED! IF ONLY WE COULD REACH THE ADULTS TOO!



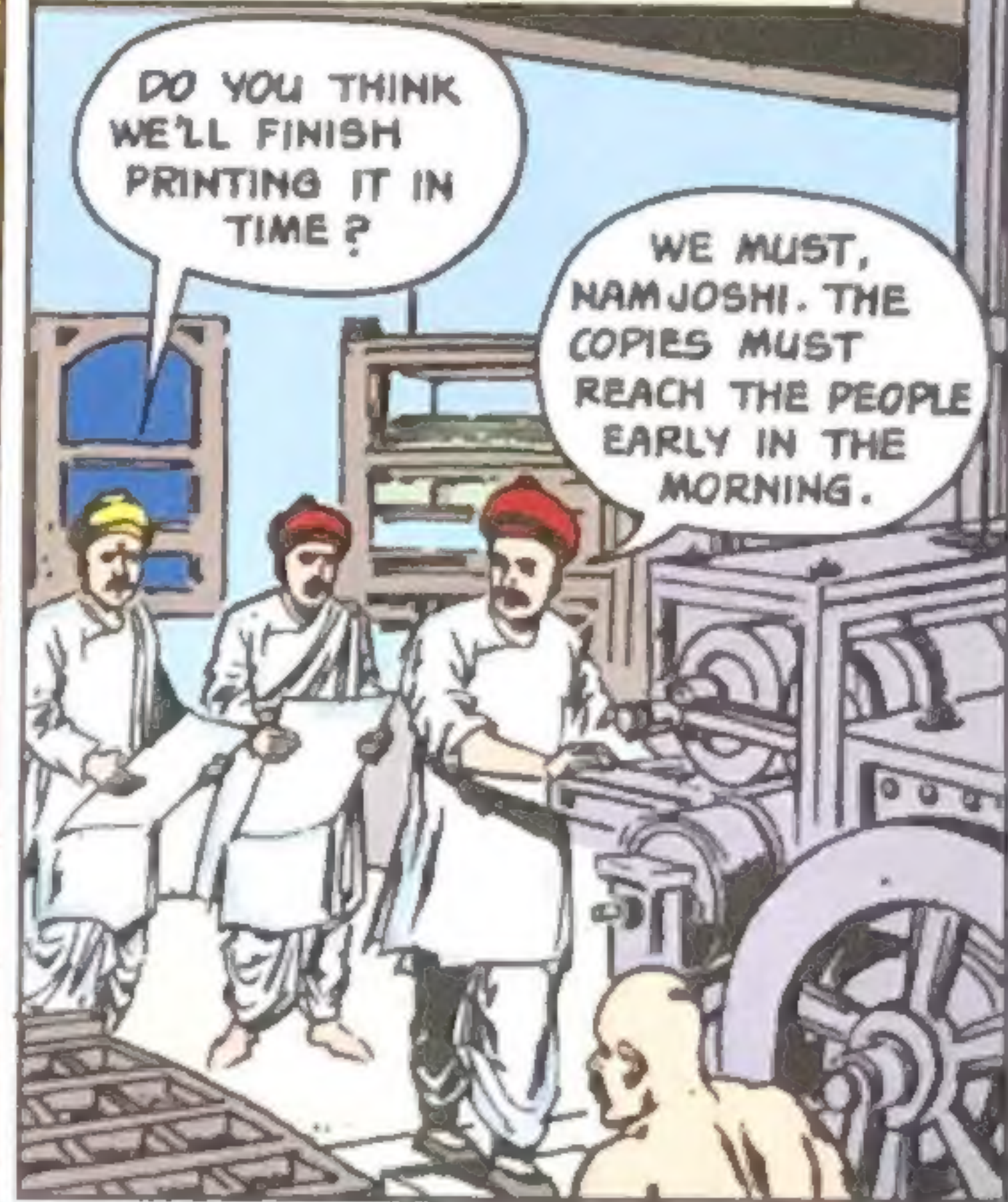
TILAK'S WORDS SET CHIPLUNKAR THINKING. ONE DAY —



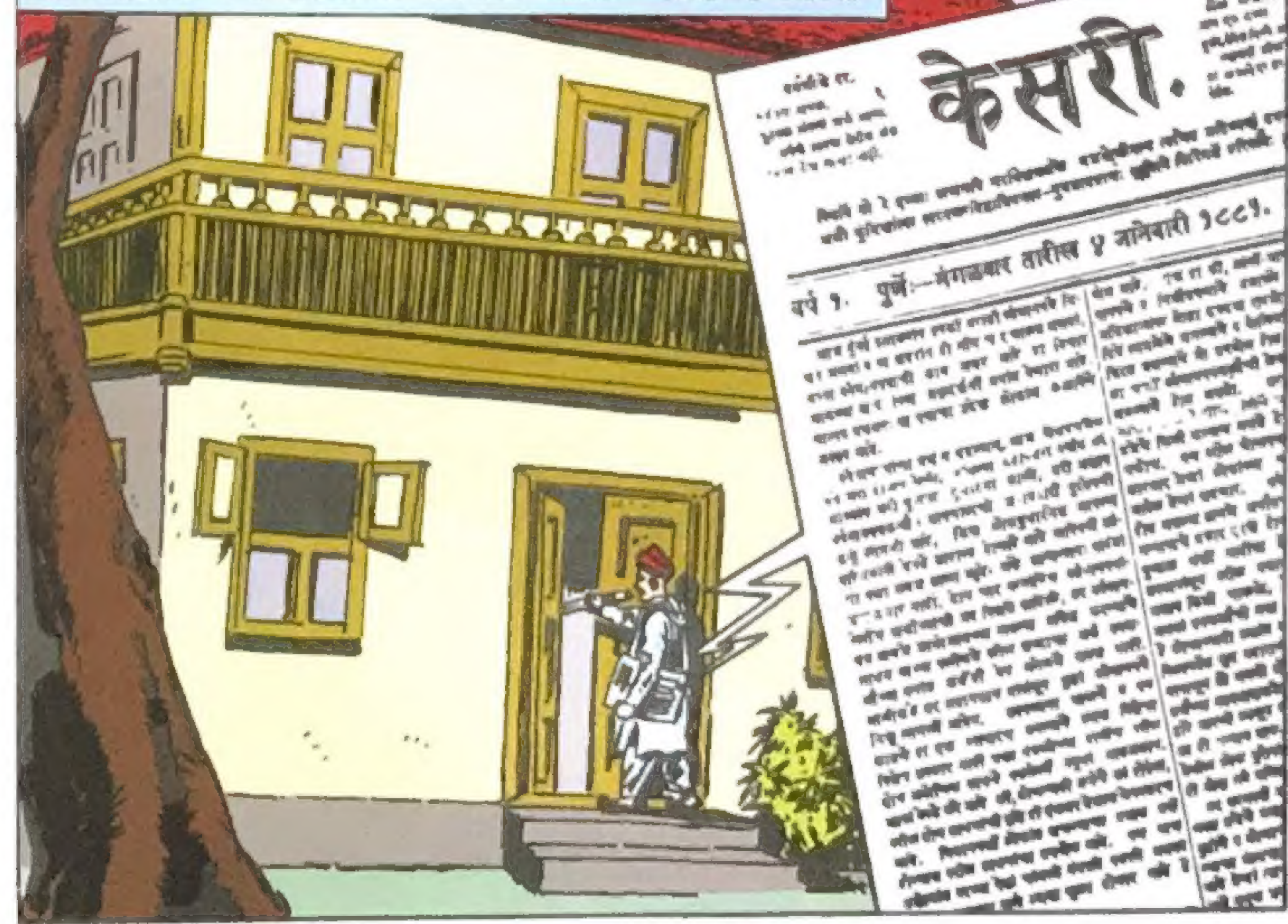
NAMJOSHI MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR A SECOND-HAND PRINTING MACHINE AND HAD IT SMUGGLED INTO THE SCHOOL ONE NIGHT.

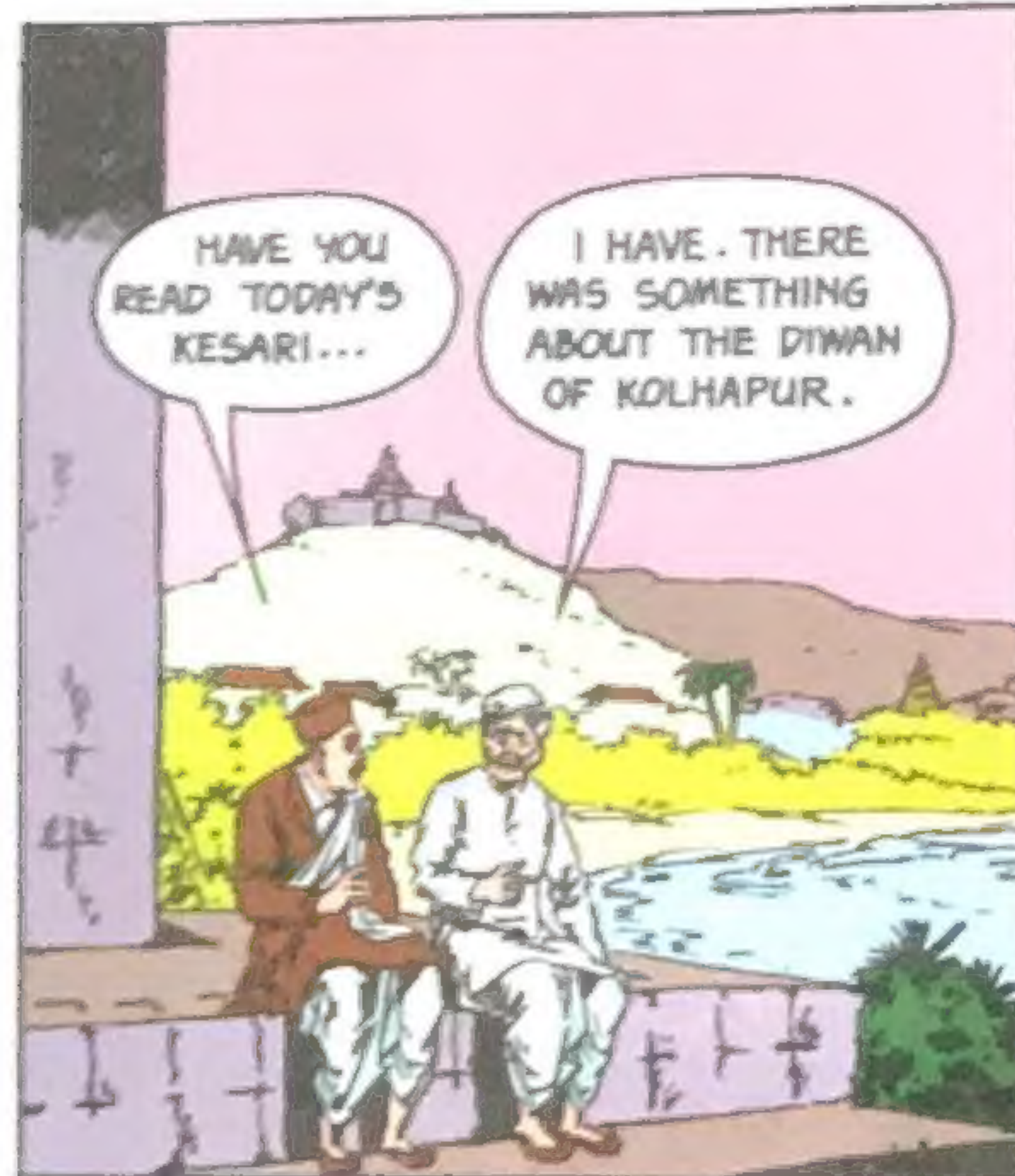


SINCE THEY COULDN'T AFFORD A MECHANIC, TILAK SET IT UP.



BEFORE THE BREAK OF DAY, TILAK AND HIS FRIENDS THEMSELVES DISTRIBUTED COPIES FROM DOOR TO DOOR.





HAVE YOU READ TODAY'S KESARI...

I HAVE. THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT THE DIWAN OF KOLHAPUR.

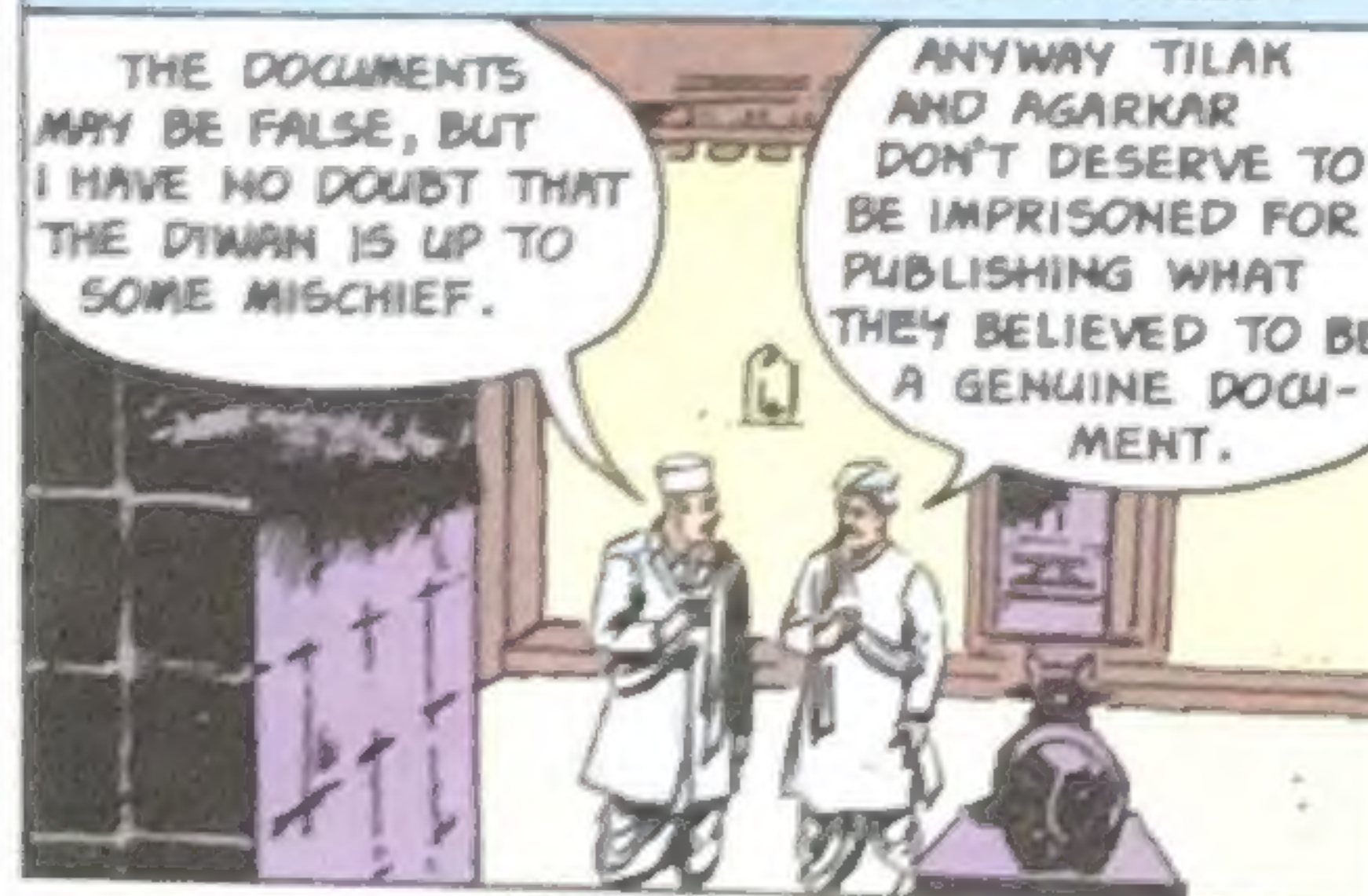


IT SEEMS HE WANTS TO DEPOSE THE ADOPTED PRINCE. TILAK HAS EXPOSED HIM.

TOTALLY! THE DOCUMENTS PUBLISHED IN KESARI PROVE THAT THE DIWAN IS PLAYING A DANGEROUS GAME.

BUT THE DOCUMENTS WHICH TILAK AND AGARKAR HAD PUBLISHED, UNFORTUNATELY TURNED OUT TO BE FABRICATED.

THE DIWAN SUED THE EDITORS AND HAD THEM JAILED IN SPITE OF THE APOLOGY OFFERED.



THE DOCUMENTS MAY BE FALSE, BUT I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THE DIWAN IS UP TO SOME MISCHIEF.

ANYWAY TILAK AND AGARKAR DON'T DESERVE TO BE IMPRISONED FOR PUBLISHING WHAT THEY BELIEVED TO BE A GENUINE DOCUMENT.

THE VIEWS OF THE PEOPLE OF PUNE WERE OPENLY EXPRESSED IN THE ROUSING WELCOME GIVEN TO TILAK AND AGARKAR ON THEIR RELEASE FROM JAIL.

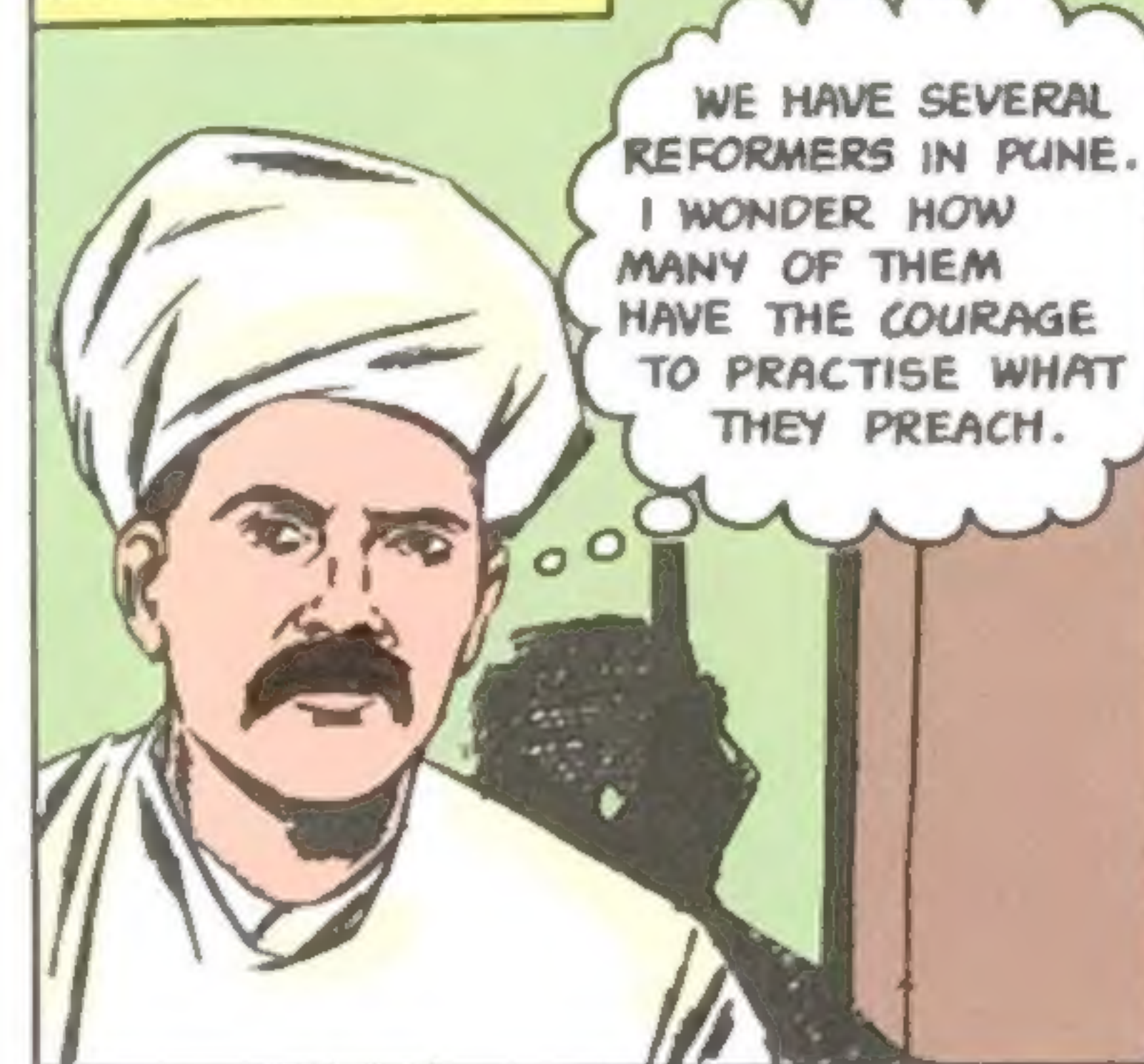


SOON AFTER THEIR RELEASE, THE FRIENDS FORMED THE DECCAN EDUCATION SOCIETY AND THE FERGUSSON COLLEGE WAS STARTED.



ONE GREAT THING ABOUT TILAK IS THAT WHILE HE ENCOURAGES MODERN EDUCATION, HE RESPECTS OUR CUSTOMS WHICH MANY OF OUR REFORMERS DO NOT.

BUT THIS FAITH IN TILAK WAS PUT TO THE TEST, IN A RATHER MISCHIVIOUS MANNER, BY ONE GOPALRAO JOSHI.



WE HAVE SEVERAL REFORMERS IN PUNE. I WONDER HOW MANY OF THEM HAVE THE COURAGE TO PRACTISE WHAT THEY PREACH.

JOSHI INVITED THEM TO DELIVER LECTURES AT A CHRISTIAN MISSION. AFTER THE LECTURE —

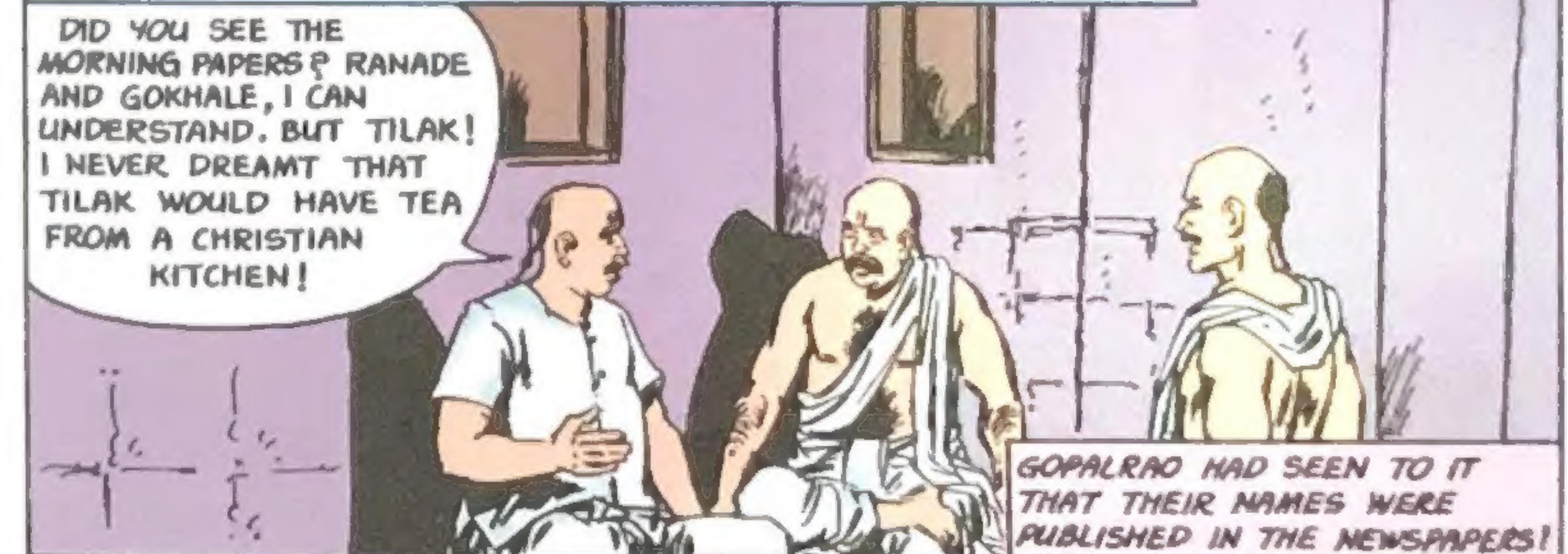


SHALL WE LEAVE?

YOU CAN'T LEAVE WITHOUT HAVING A CUP OF TEA.

THE FOLLOWING DAY, THE ORTHODOXY WERE IN FOR A SHOCK.

DID YOU SEE THE MORNING PAPERS? RANADE AND GOKHALE, I CAN UNDERSTAND. BUT TILAK! I NEVER DREAMT THAT TILAK WOULD HAVE TEA FROM A CHRISTIAN KITCHEN!



GOPALRAO HAD SEEN TO IT THAT THEIR NAMES WERE PUBLISHED IN THE NEWSPAPERS!



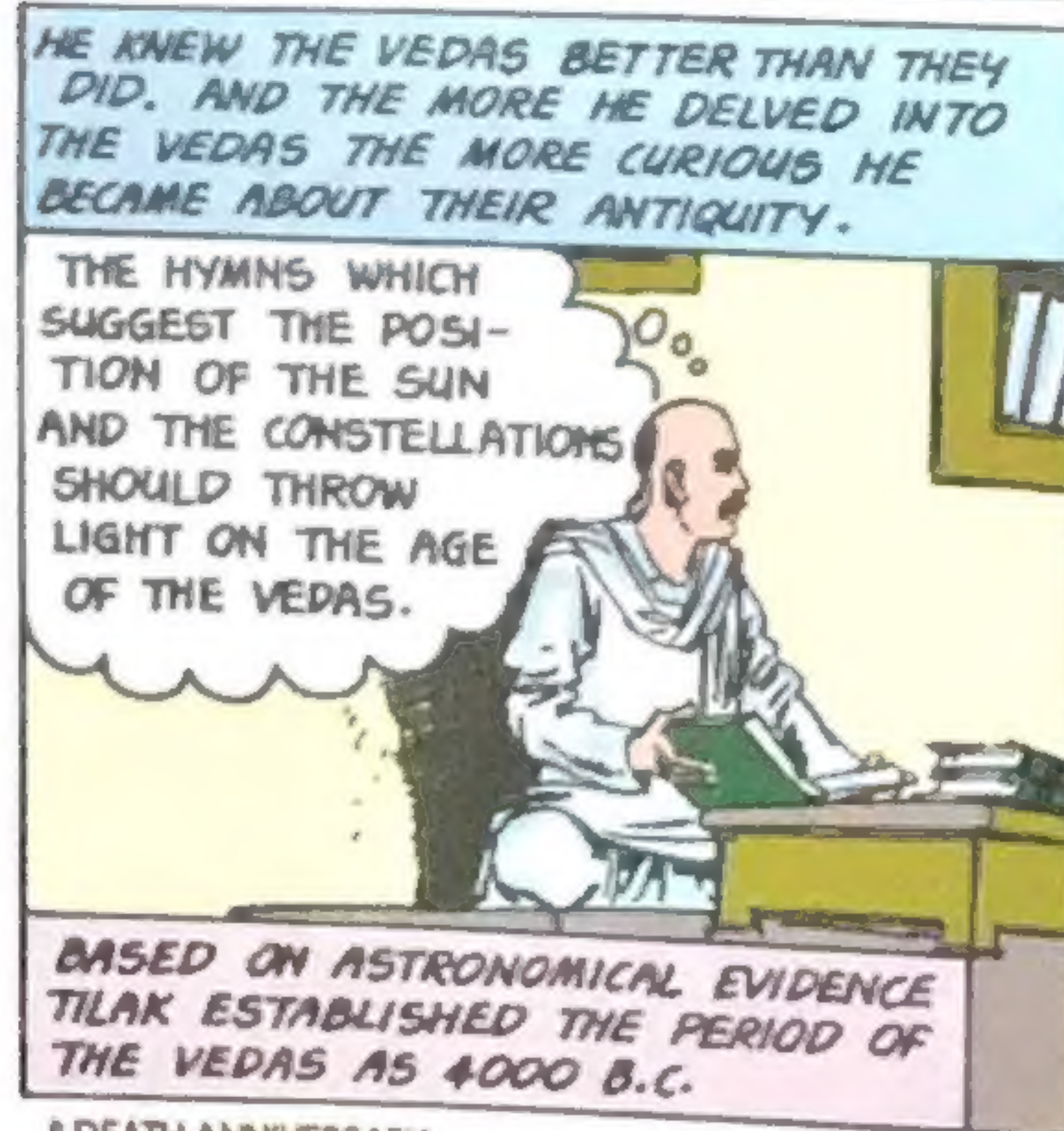
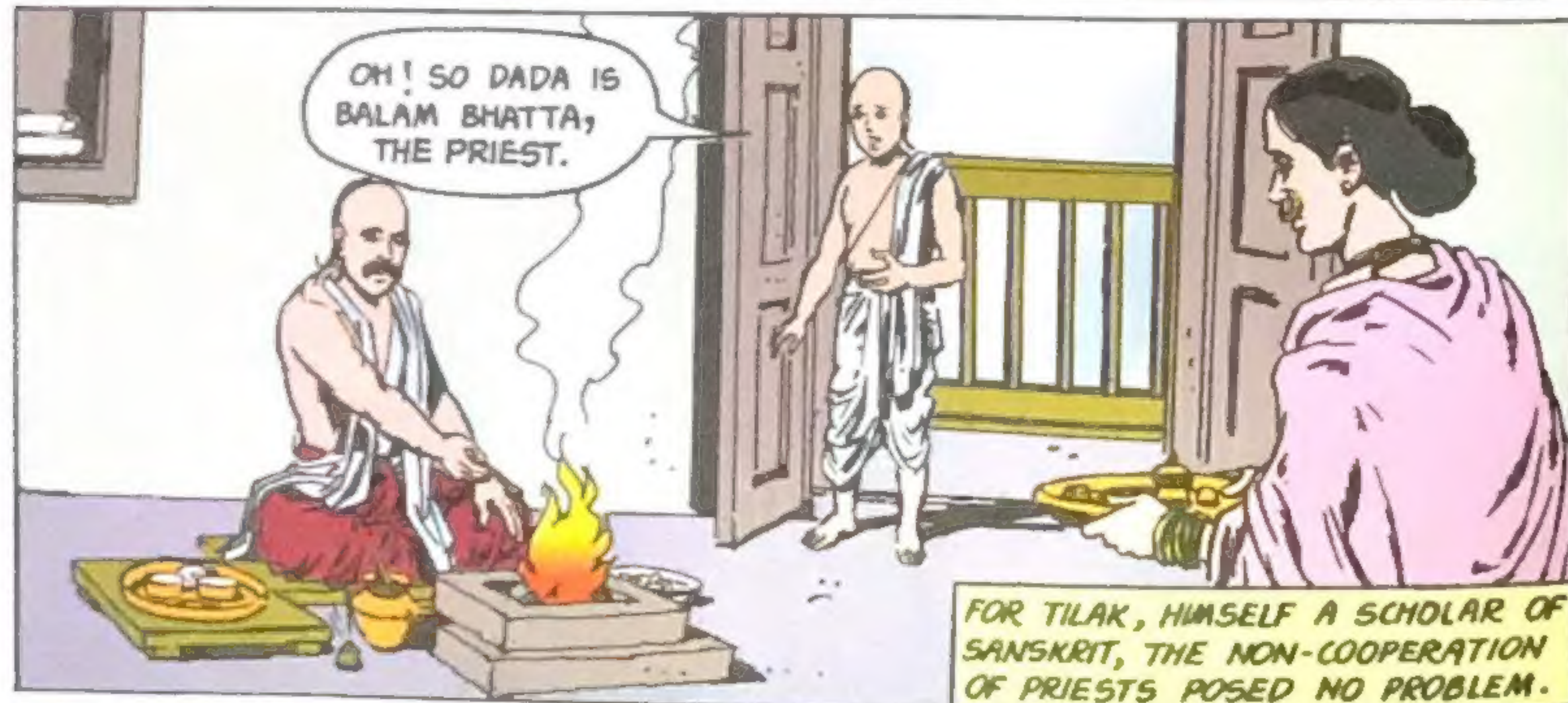
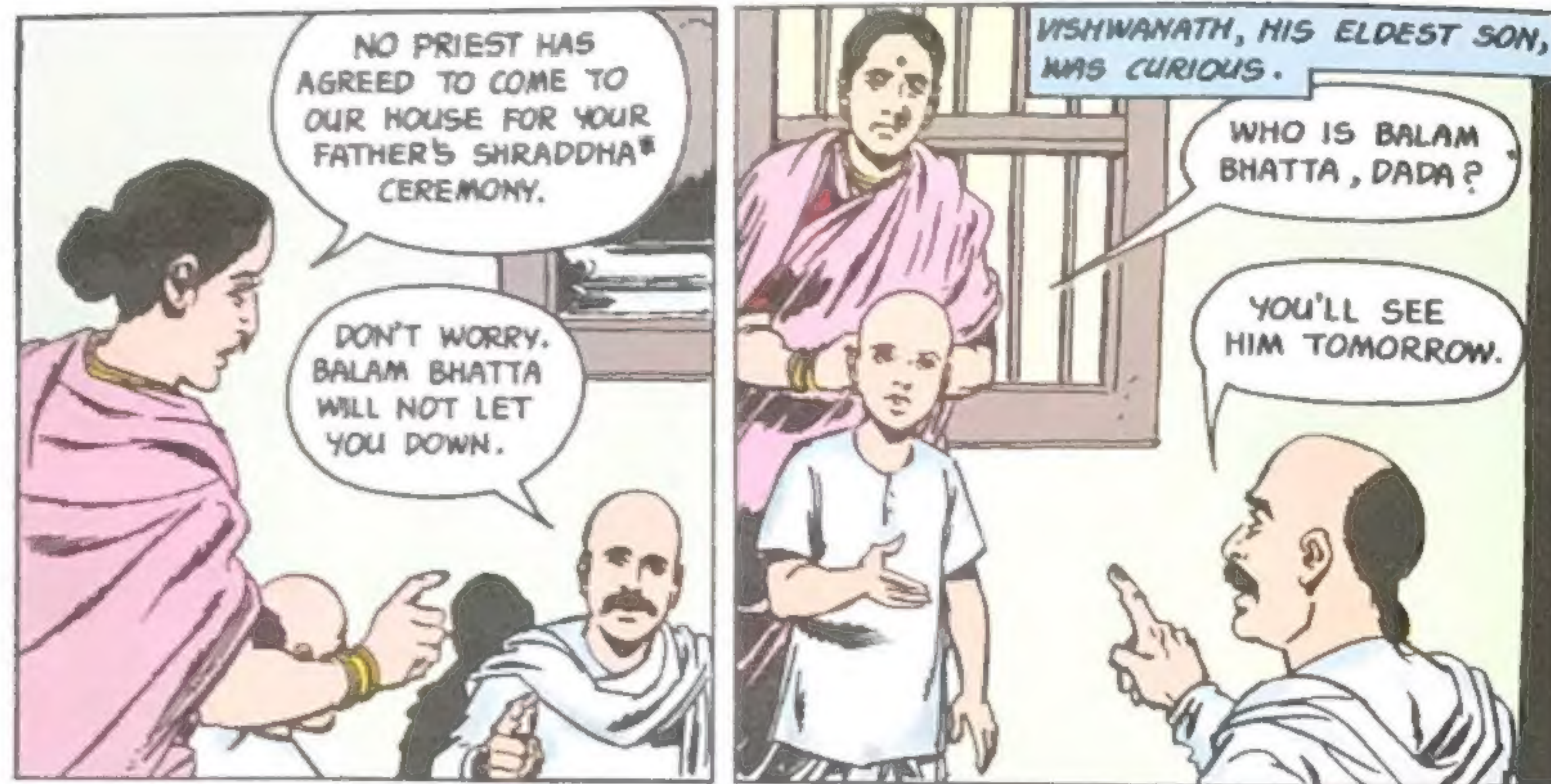
ALL THIS REFORM BUSINESS IS GOING TOO FAR!

YES. WE MUST EXPEL THEM FROM THE COMMUNITY UNLESS THEY ARE PREPARED TO PERFORM THE PURIFICATION CEREMONY.

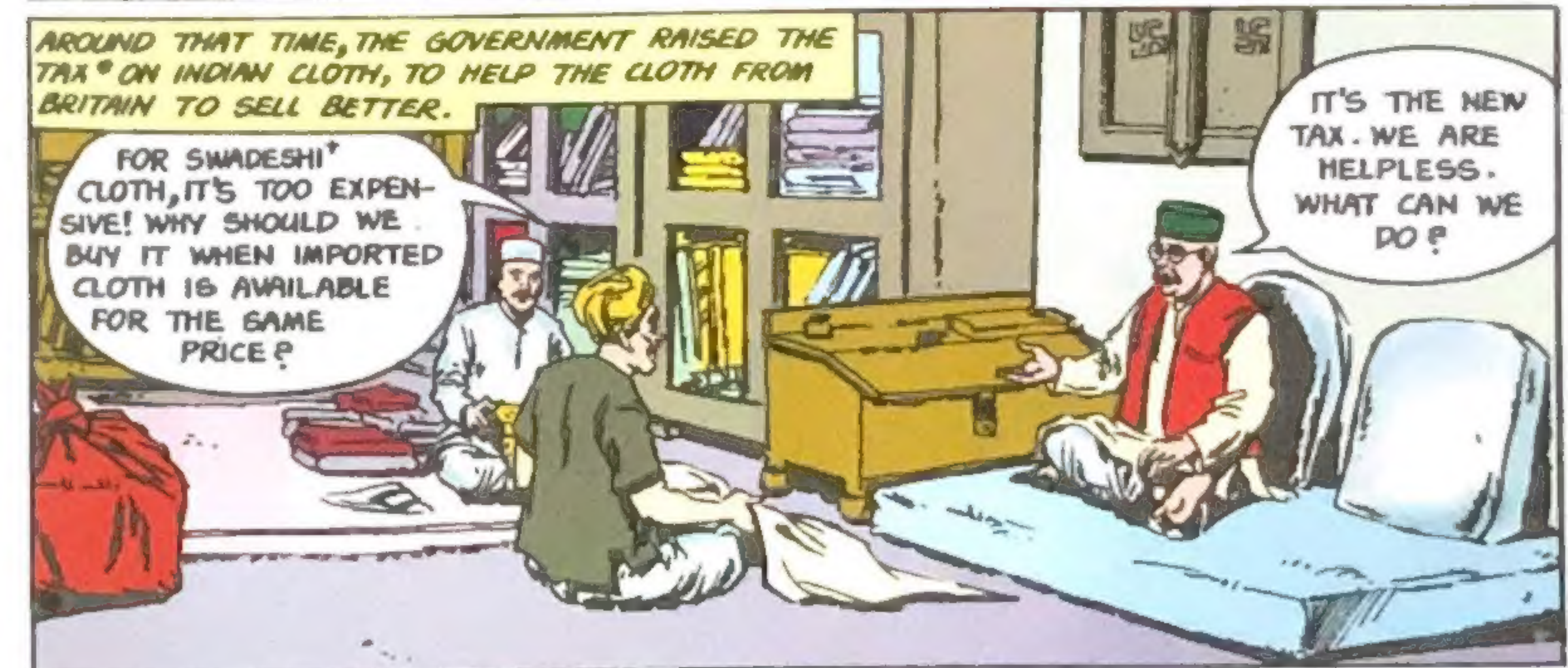
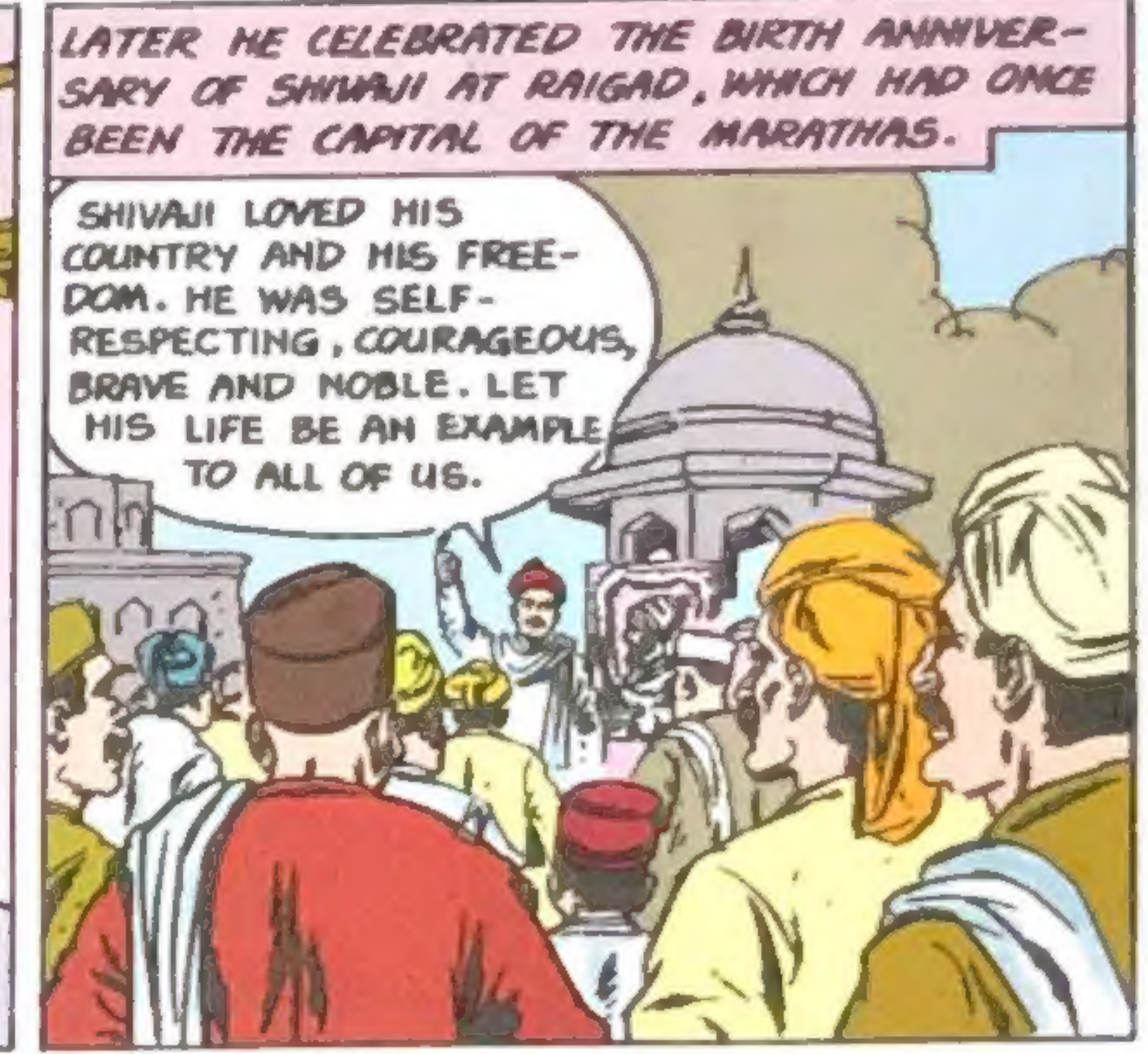
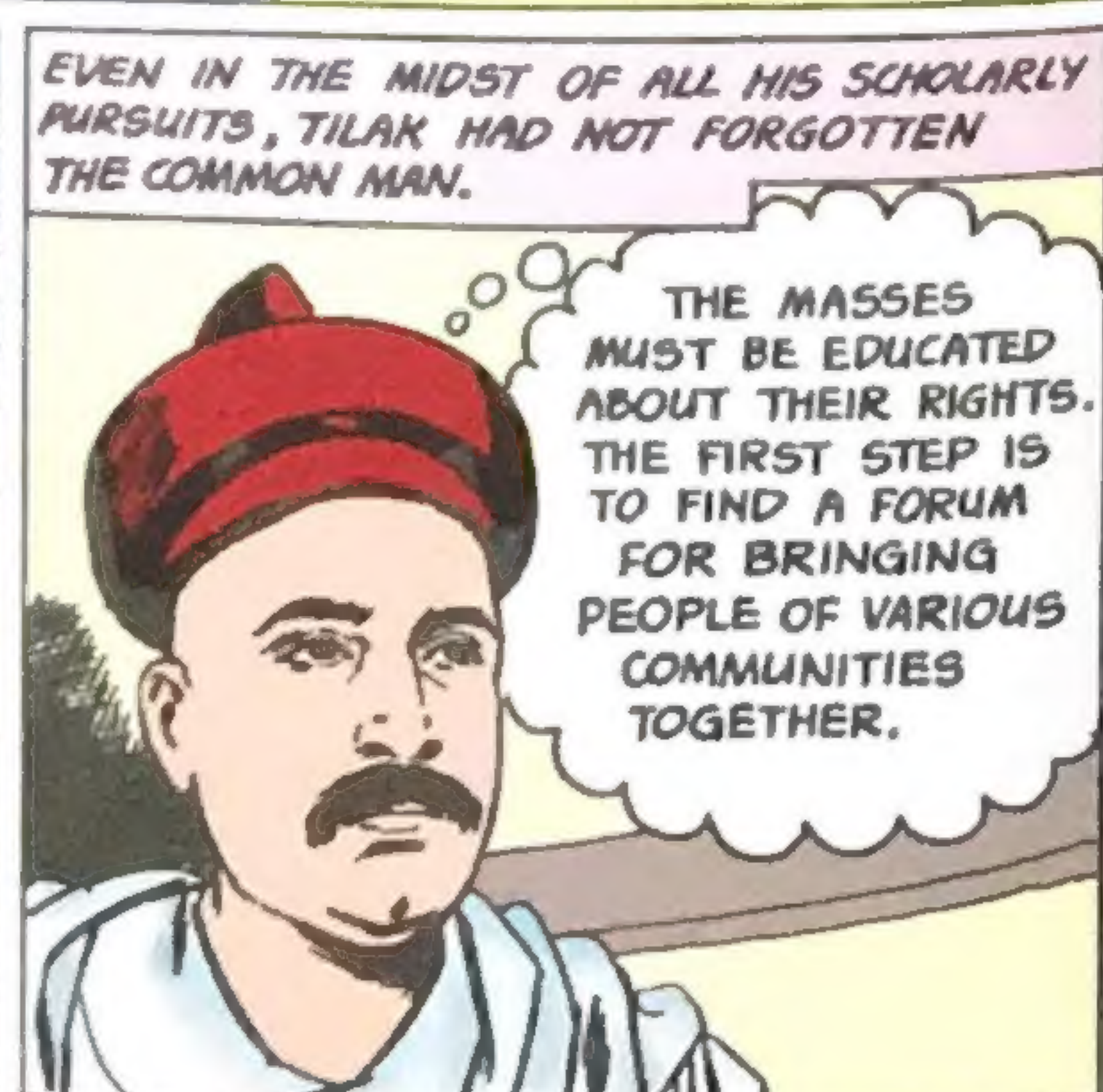
LATER, AT TILAK'S HOME —

PLEASE AGREE TO PERFORM THE CEREMONY.

NO! I WON'T. IS MY RELIGION SO FRAGILE THAT IT CAN BE POLLUTED BY A CUP OF TEA FROM A CHRISTIAN'S HOUSE?

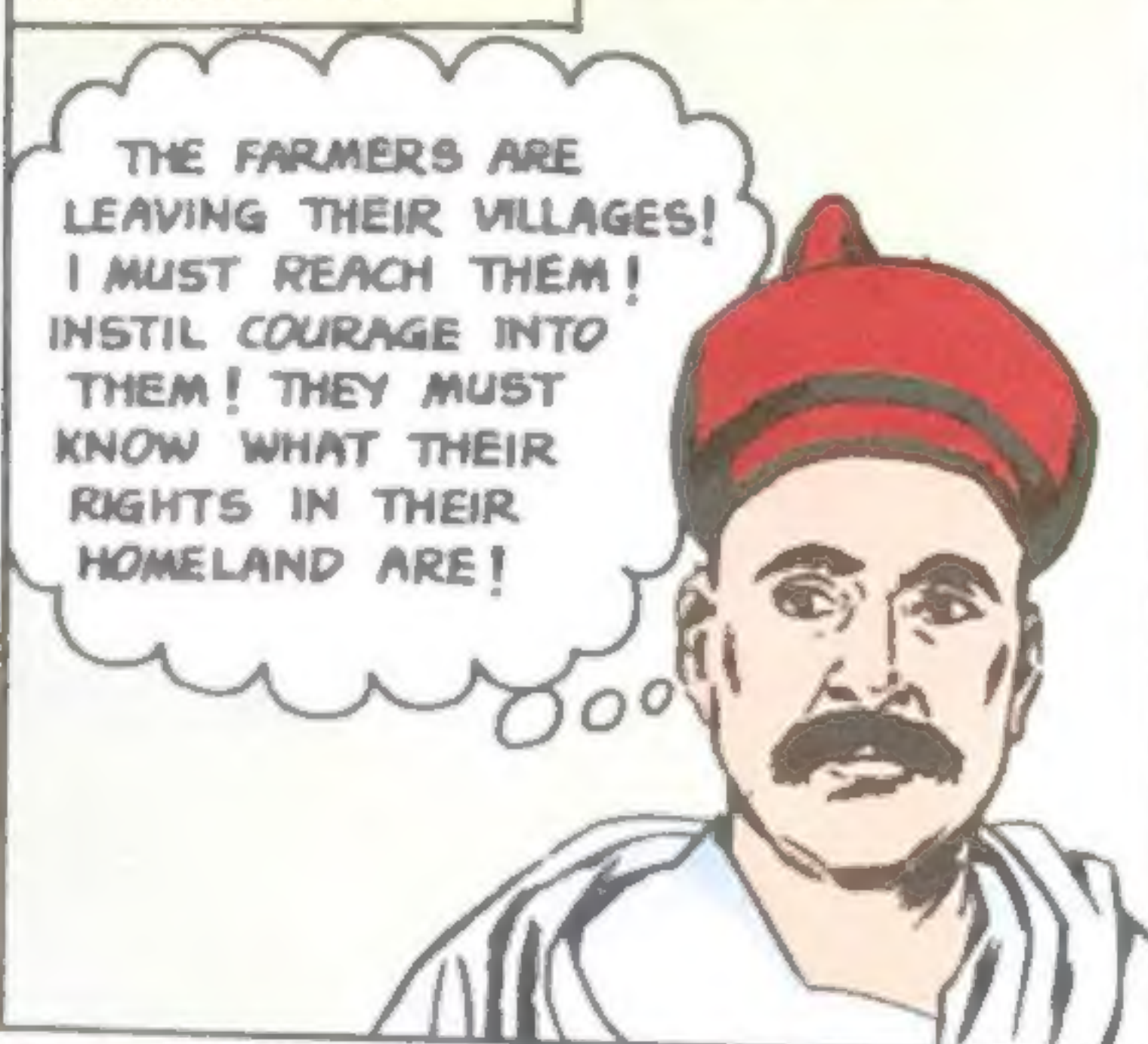


* DEATH ANNIVERSARY

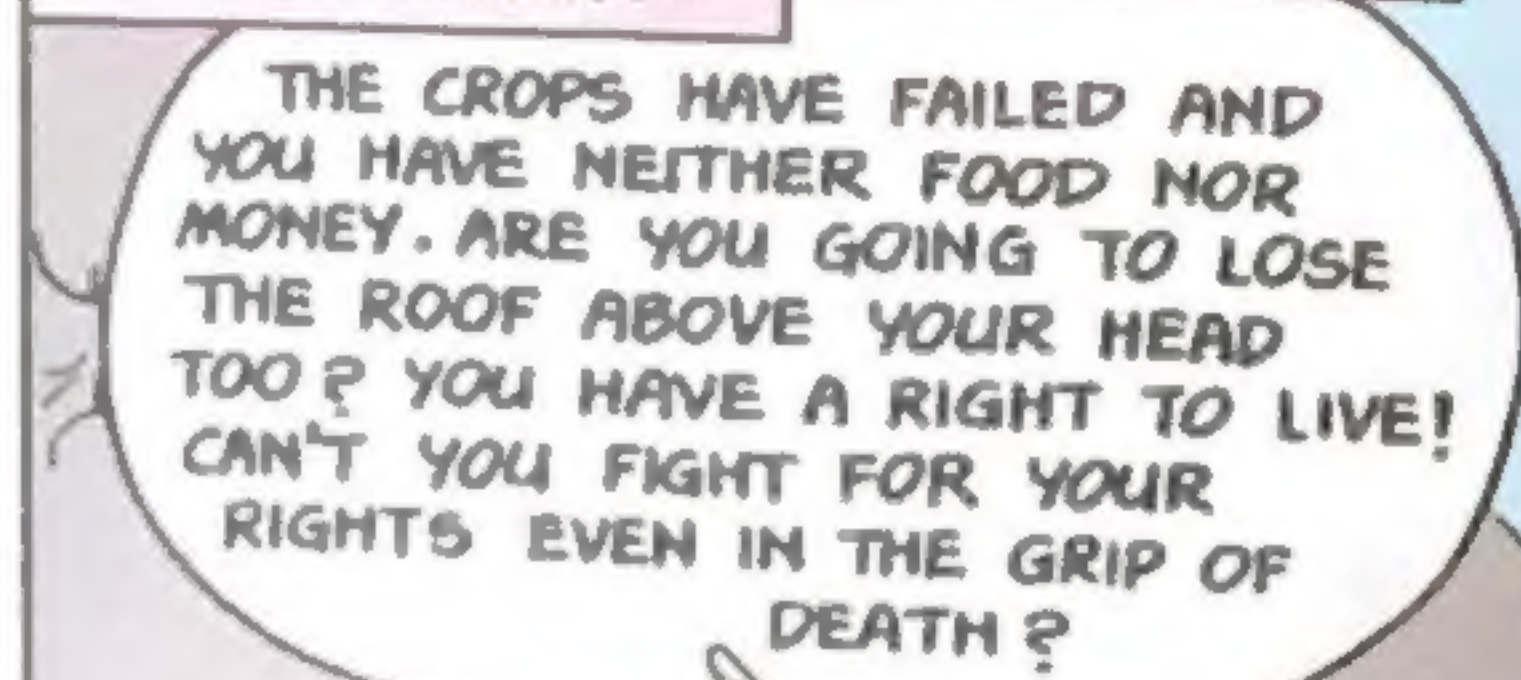


* EXCISE DUTY + INDIGENOUS

ONCE WHEN FAMINE BROKE OUT IN MAHARASHTRA —



TILAK DID NOT BELIEVE IN SENDING PETITIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT AS SOME OF HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS, THE MODERATES, DID. HIS METHODS WERE DIFFERENT.



TILAK AND HIS SUPPORTERS WERE LABELLED EXTREMISTS. BUT THAT DID NOT DETER HIM.



YOUNG AND OLD, TILAK'S VOLUNTEERS WENT TO THE VILLAGES CARRYING HIS MESSAGE.



THE OFFICIALS RETALIATED BY ARRESTING THE VOLUNTEERS. AT PUNE A FURIOUS MOB SURROUNDED THE MAGISTRATE.



WHEN TILAK RUSHED TO THE SCENE —

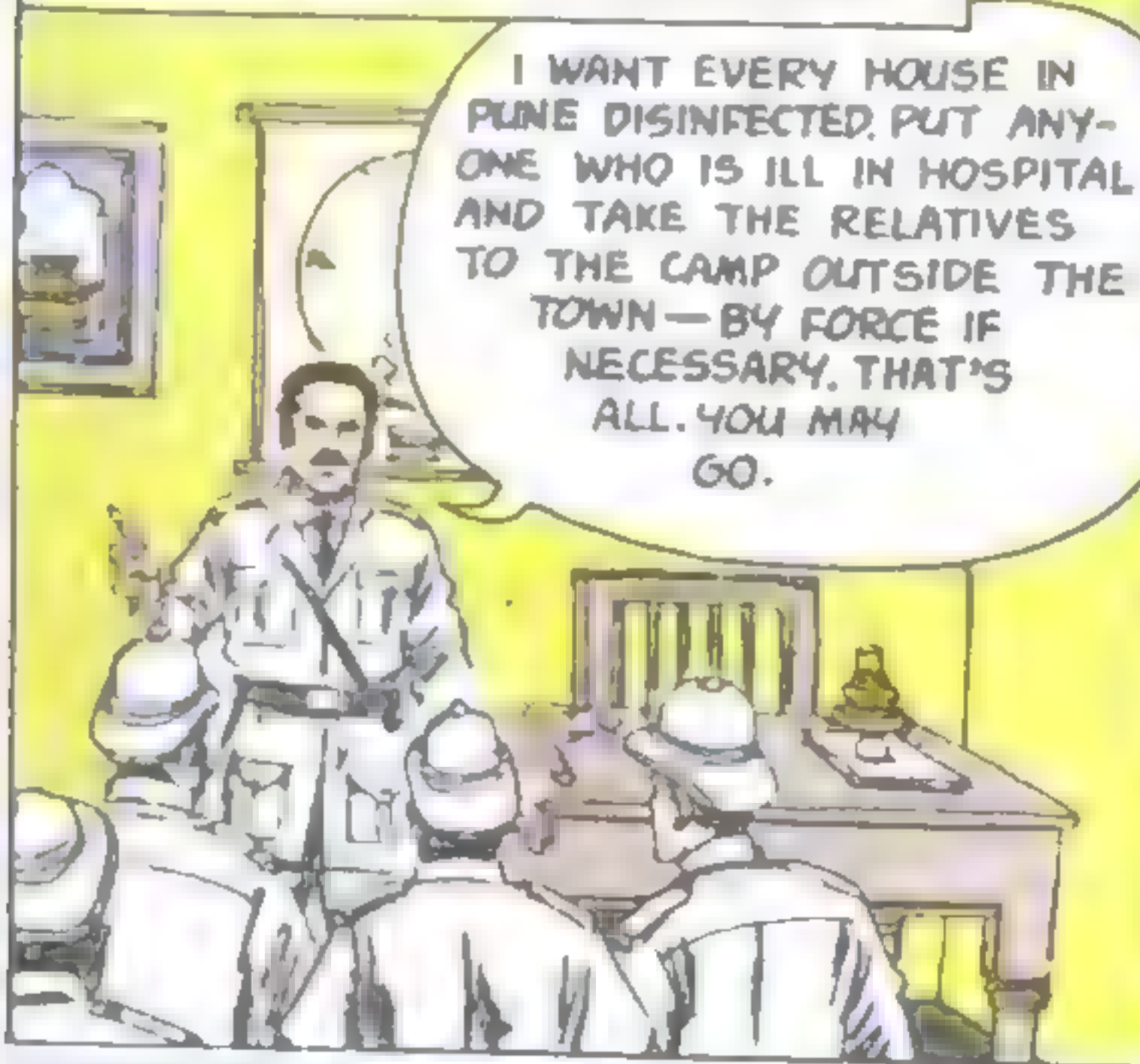


THE MOB MELTED AWAY. SUCH WAS THE SPELL CAST BY TILAK!

WHILE TILAK WAS BUSY WITH THE STRUGGLE TO SECURE FAMINE RELIEF FOR THE FARMERS, THE PLAGUE STRUCK PUNE. THE GOVERNMENT WAS AT FIRST INDIFFERENT AND TOOK NO MEASURES TO ARREST THE SPREAD OF THE DREADED DISEASE.



FINALLY WHEN IT DID ACT, IT DID SO WITH A VENGEANCE. ONE CHARLES RAND WAS APPOINTED PLAGUE COMMISSIONER.



I WANT EVERY HOUSE IN PUNE DISINFECTED. PUT ANYONE WHO IS ILL IN HOSPITAL AND TAKE THE RELATIVES TO THE CAMP OUTSIDE THE TOWN—BY FORCE IF NECESSARY. THAT'S ALL YOU MAY GO.

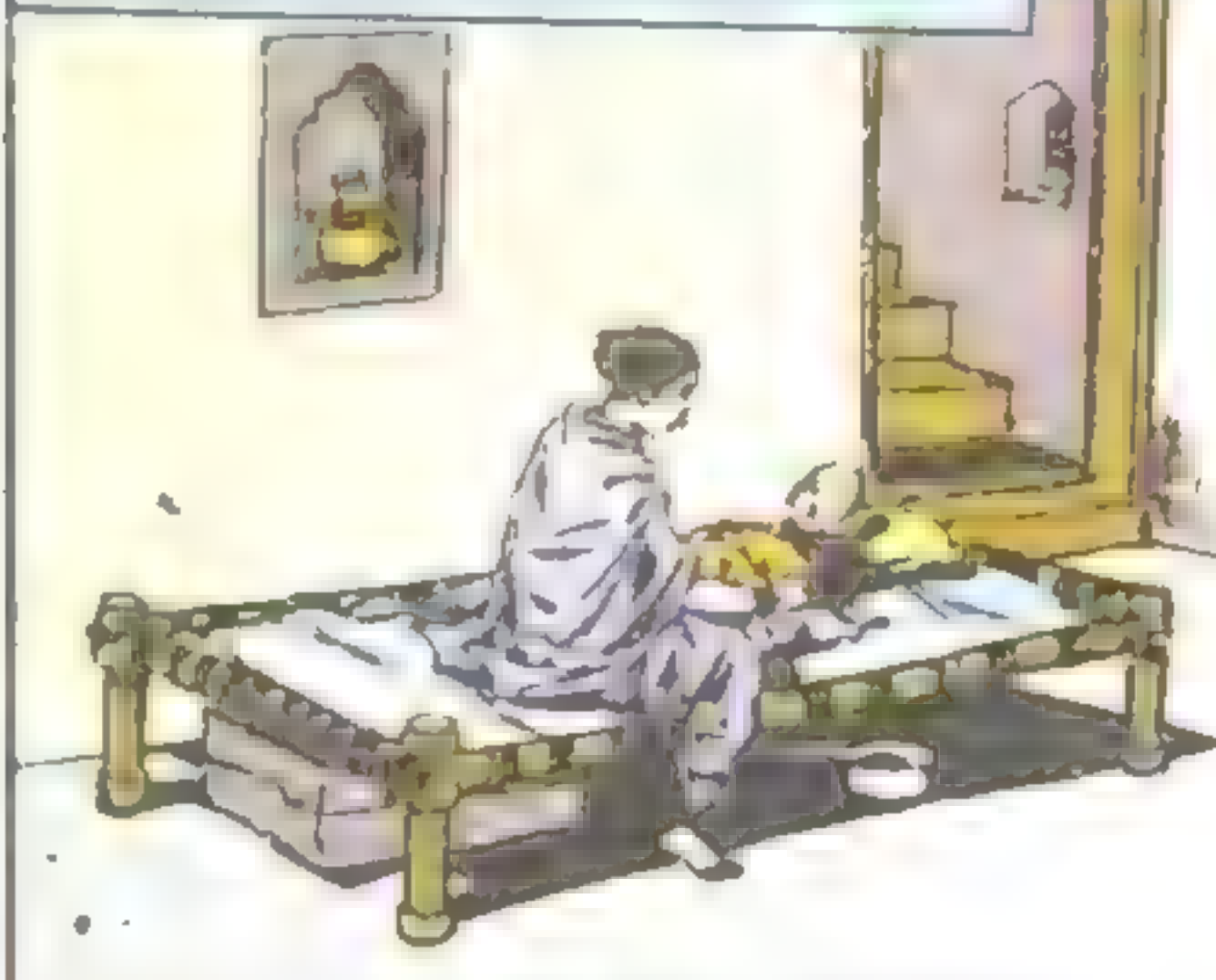
BUT THERE WAS TROUBLE AFOOT.



OUR PEOPLE DON'T HAVE ANY TRUST IN THE SOLDIERS. AND I DON'T BLAME THEM. THE SOLDIERS ARE BRUTAL.

THEY DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE FEARS OF OUR PEOPLE. I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO ABOUT IT.

TILAK WENT THE ROUNDS, SOMETIMES WITH THE SOLDIERS, SOMETIMES ALONE.



YOUR SON IS DOWN WITH THE PLAGUE. IT IS YOUR DUTY TO SEND HIM TO THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

NO! NO! THAT MEANS SURE DEATH! I WANT MY SON TO REMAIN IN MY HOUSE. I WILL NOT...



PLEASE LISTEN TO ME, KAKA*, TO SAVE HIS LIFE AND THE LIVES OF OTHERS AT HOME, YOU MUST SEND HIM TO THE HOSPITAL.

YOU KNOW BEST, BALWANTRAO. DO AS YOU WISH.

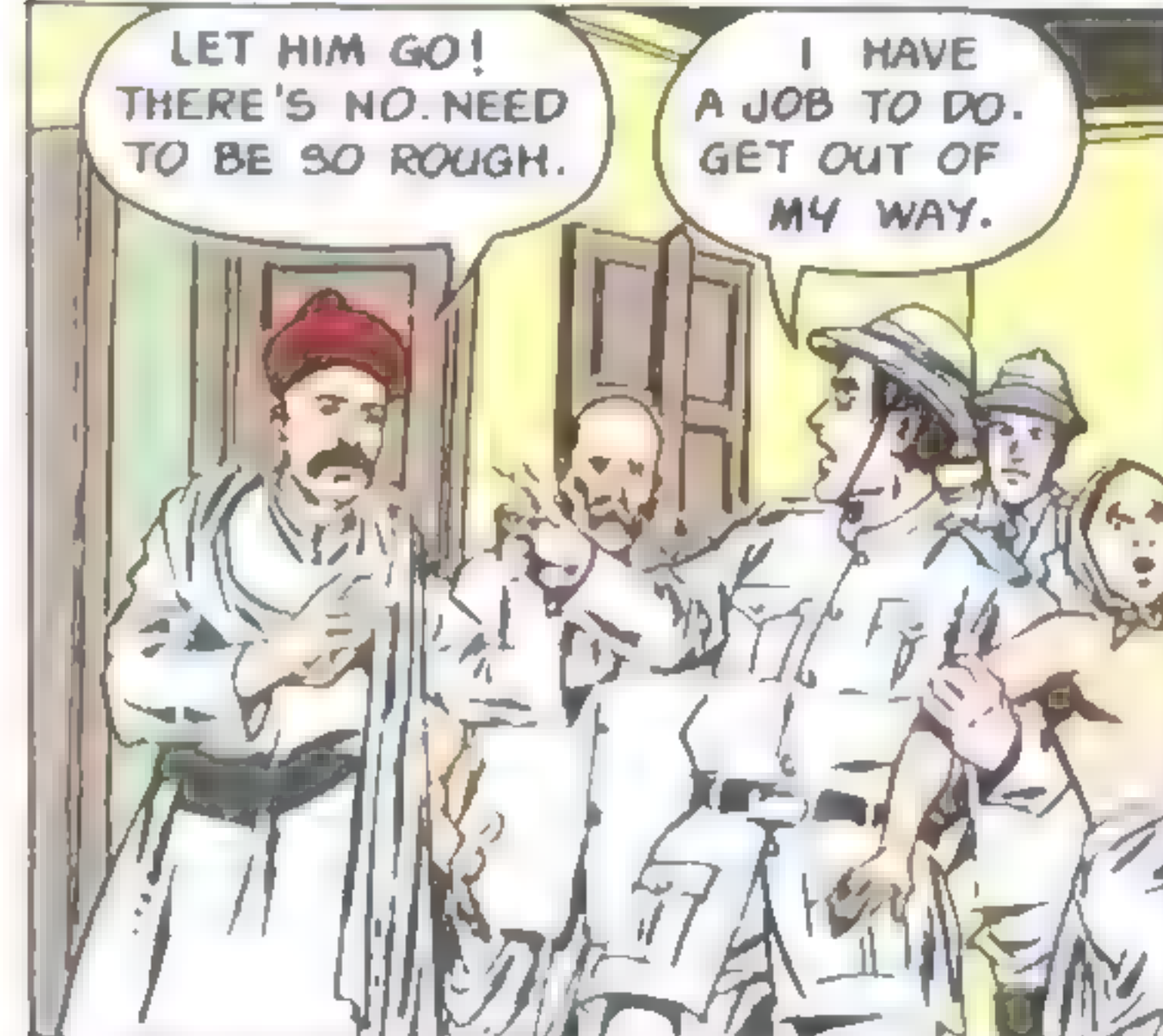
*UNCLE

JUST THEN THE SOLDIERS ARRIVED ON THE SCENE.



COME ON! LET'S GET THIS FILTHY HOLE DISINFECTED.

HEY, YOU! GET OUT OF THE BED.



LET HIM GO! THERE'S NO NEED TO BE SO ROUGH.

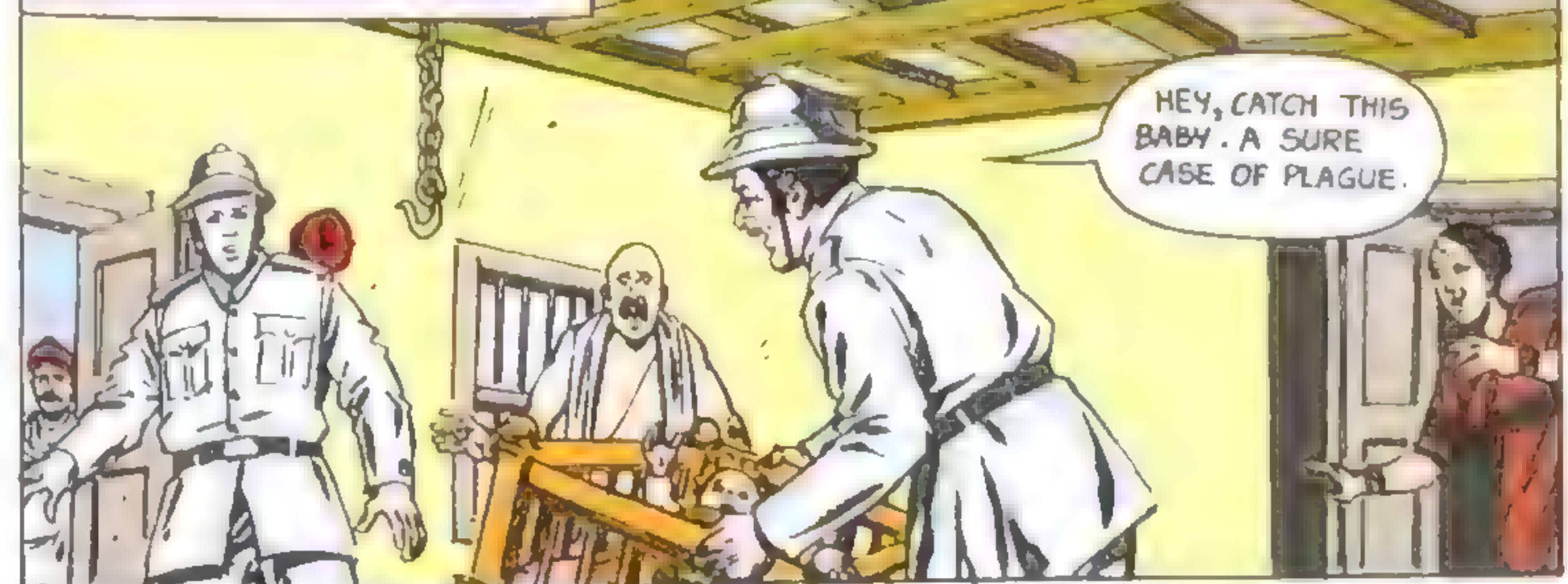
I HAVE A JOB TO DO. GET OUT OF MY WAY.



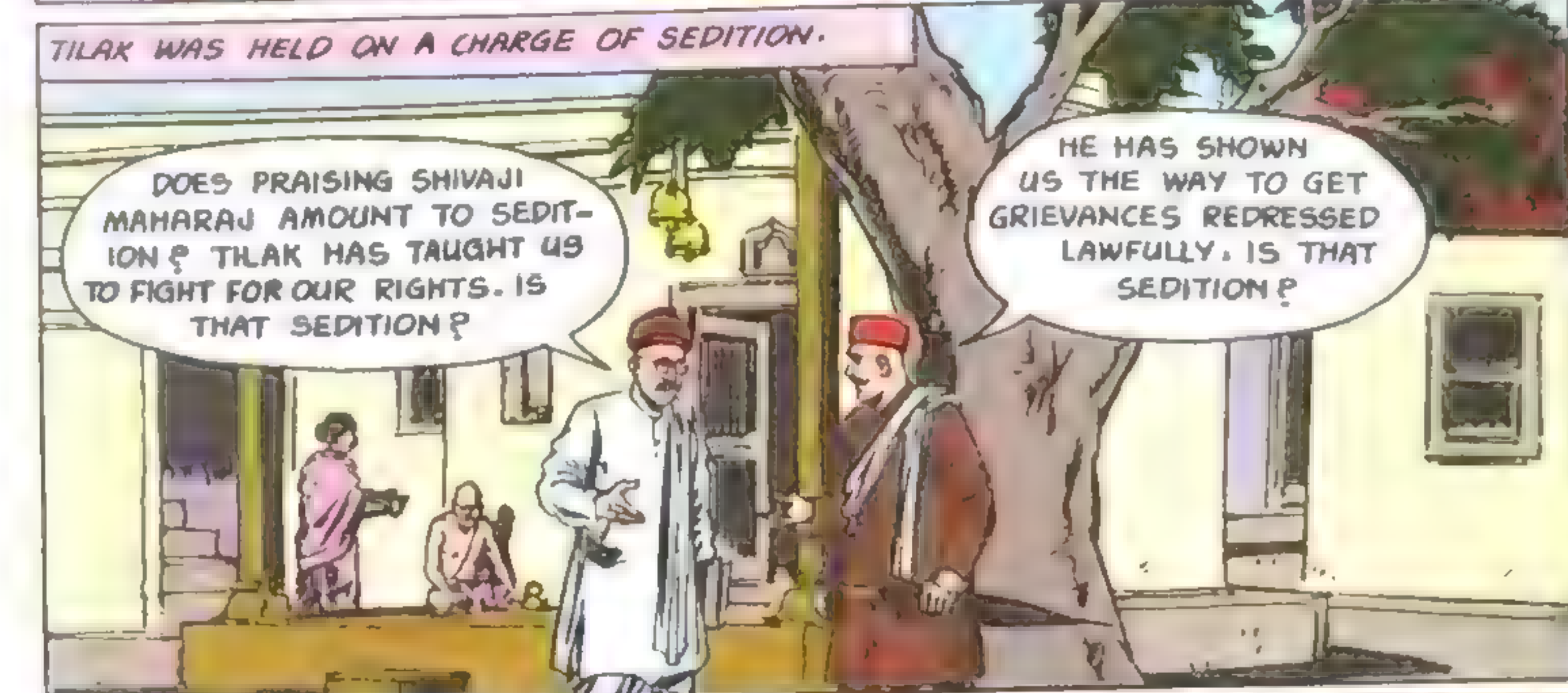
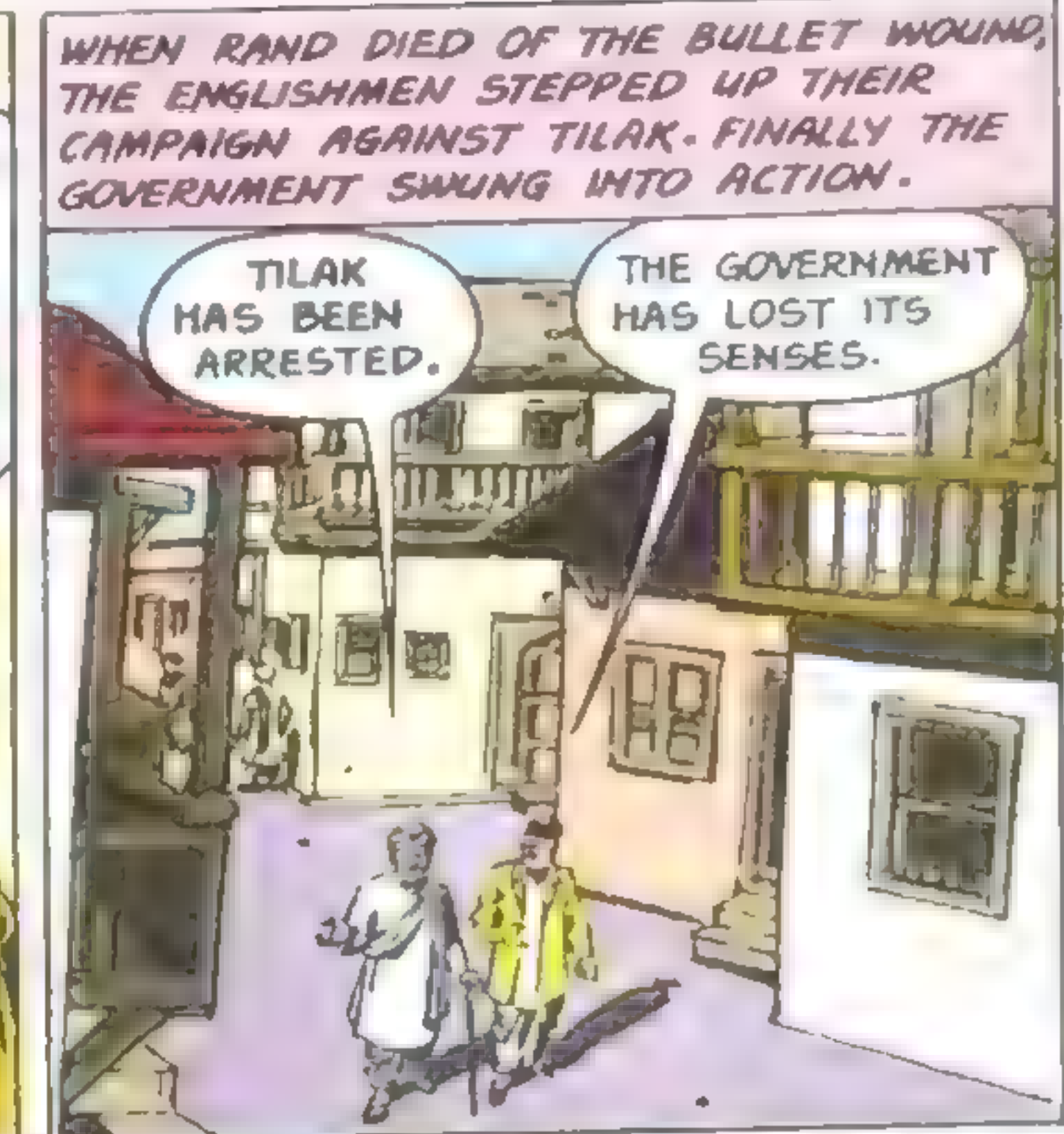
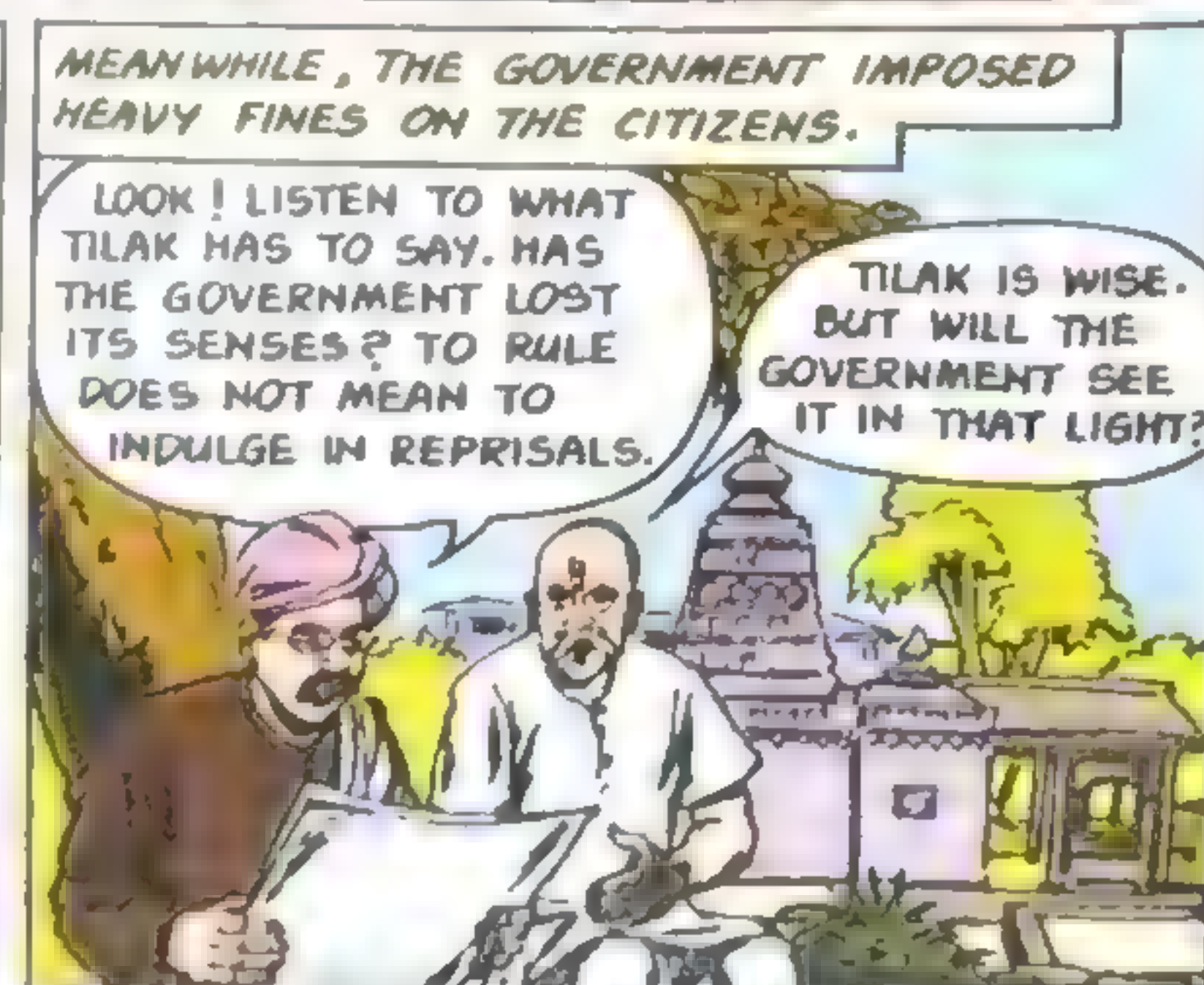
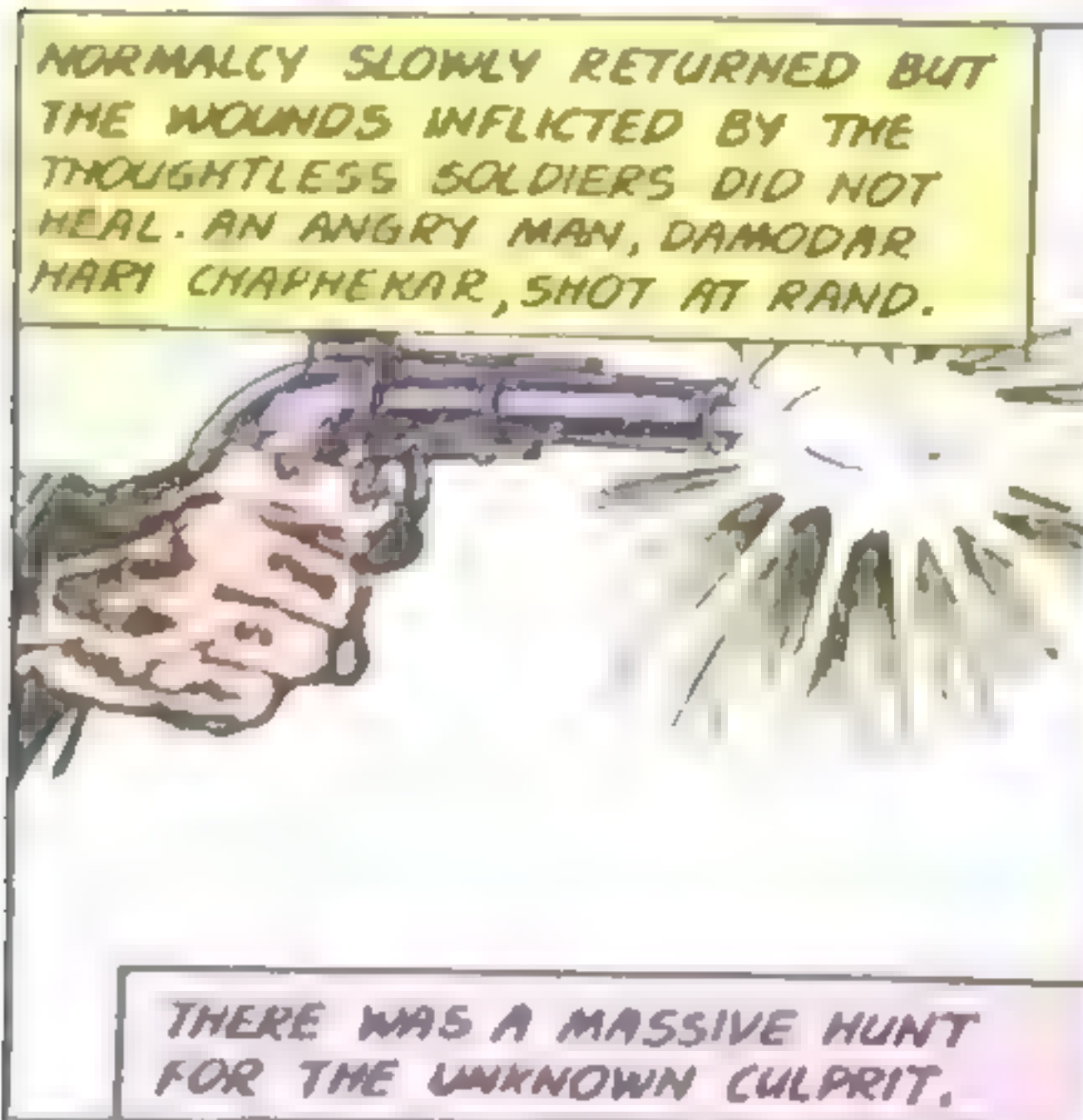
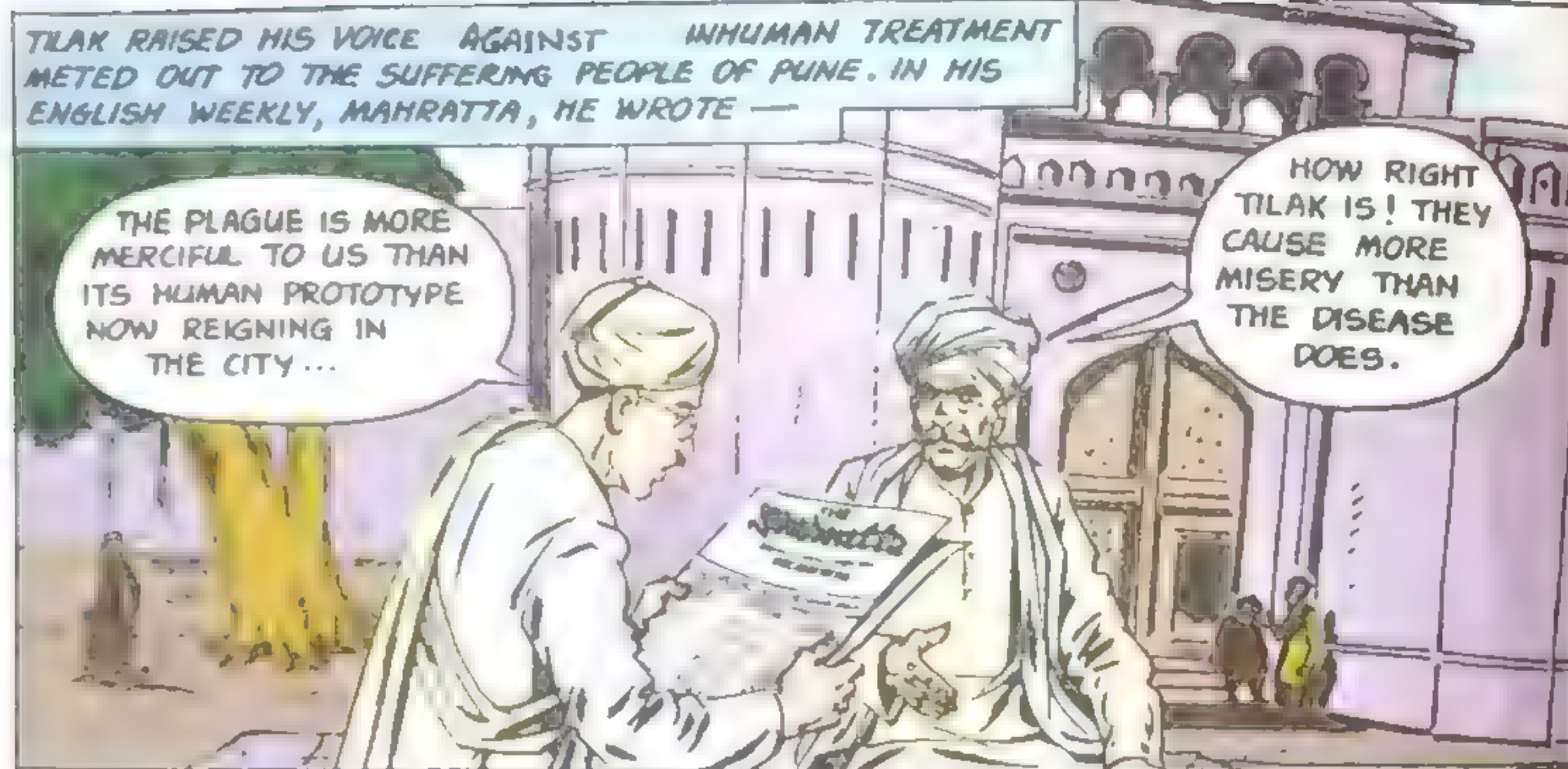
PLEASE LEAVE THAT ROOM ALONE. IT IS OUR ROOM OF WORSHIP.

DON'T LISTEN TO THE WILY OLD MAN! HE'S PROBABLY HIDING A PATIENT IN THERE!

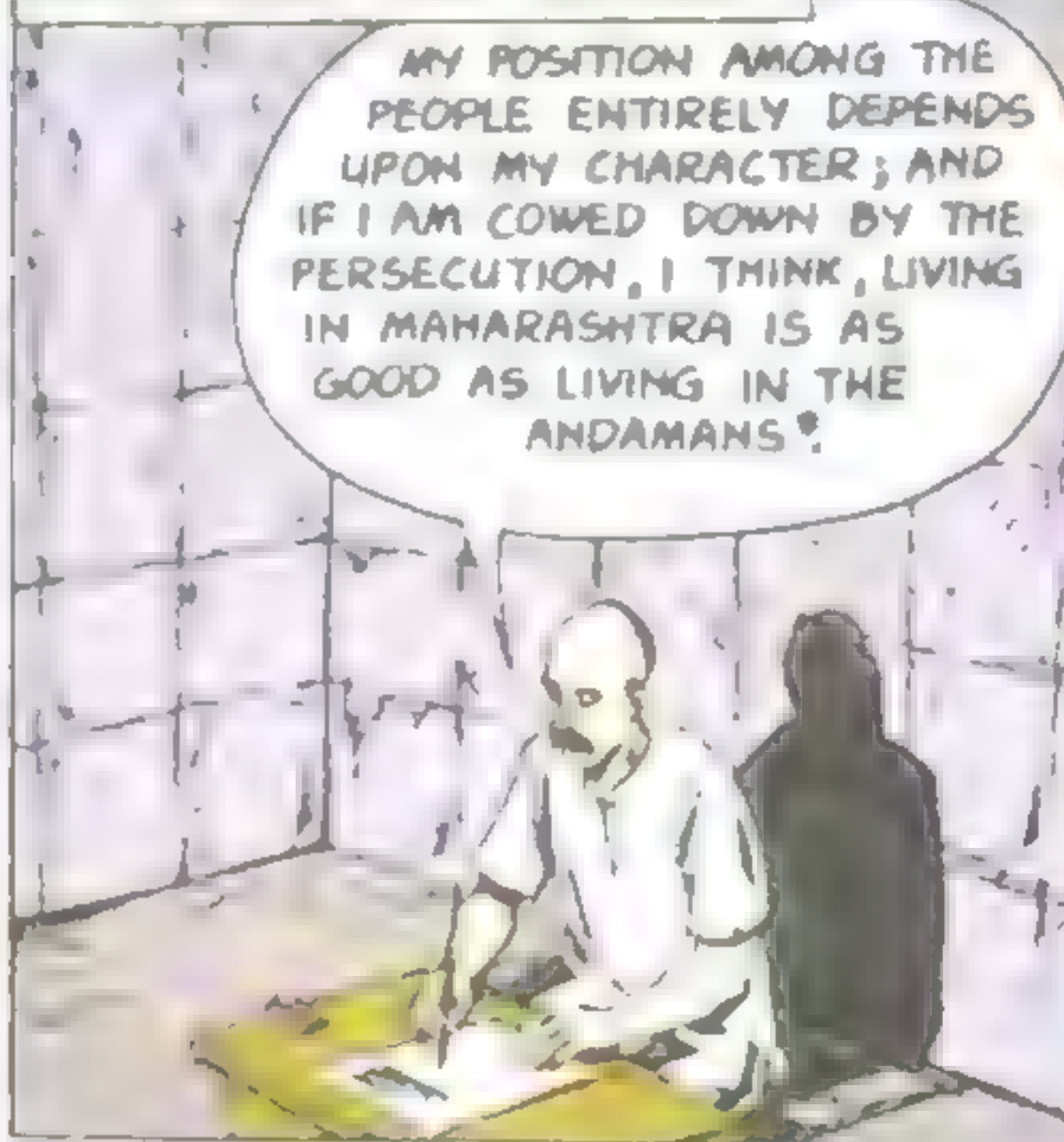
THE OVERZEALOUS SOLDIERS DID NOT RESPECT THE FEELINGS OF THE CITIZENS. THEY HANDLED EVEN BABIES IN THEIR CRADLES WITHOUT ANY MERCY.



HEY, CATCH THIS BABY. A SURE CASE OF PLAGUE.



SOME OF HIS FRIENDS HINTED THAT TILAK SHOULD OFFER AN APOLOGY AND SECURE HIS RELEASE. TILAK REFUSED.

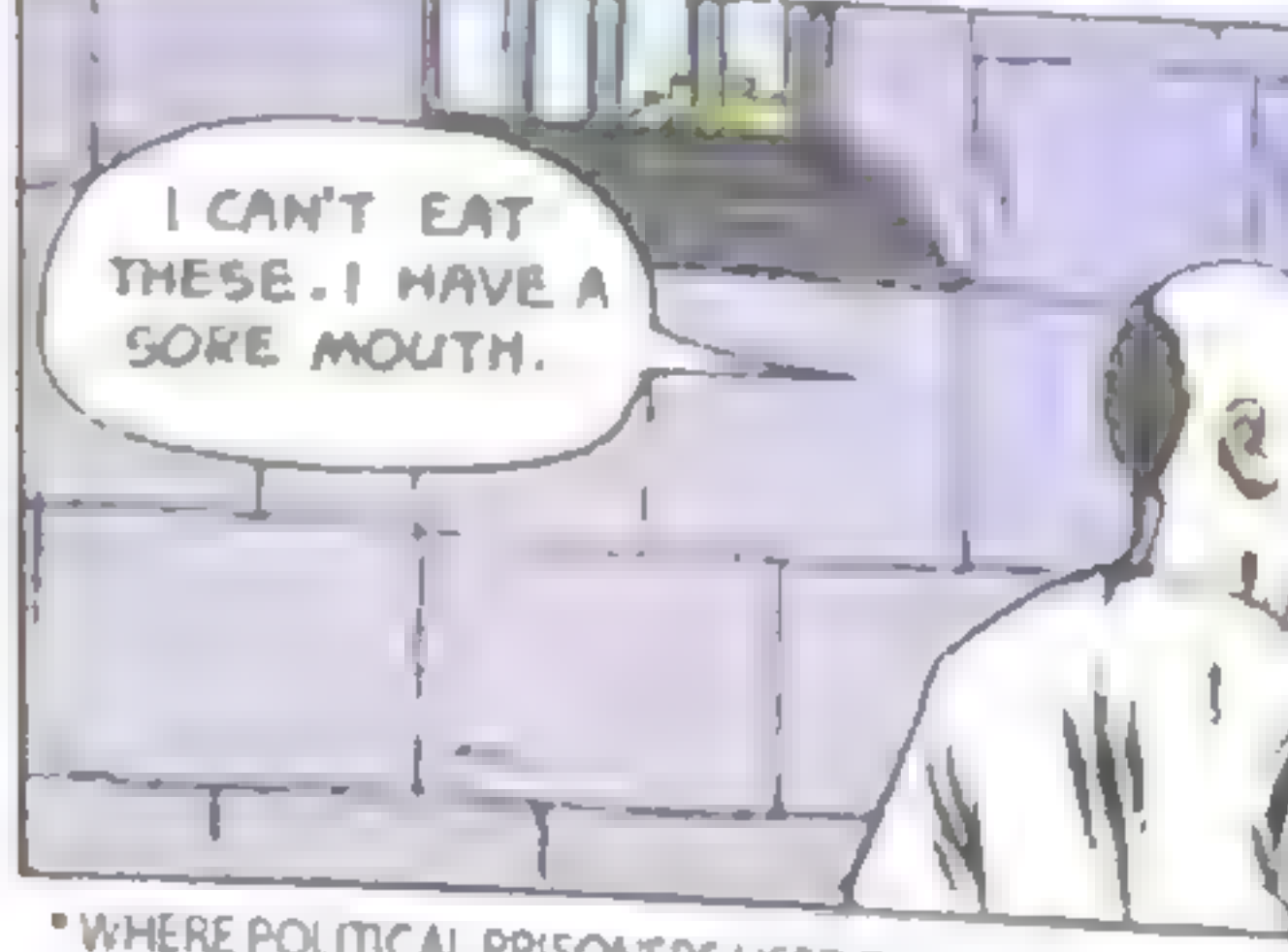


MY POSITION AMONG THE PEOPLE ENTIRELY DEPENDS UPON MY CHARACTER; AND IF I AM COWED DOWN BY THE PERSECUTION, I THINK, LIVING IN MAHARASHTRA IS AS GOOD AS LIVING IN THE ANDAMANS*.

TILAK TOO FELL ILL IN PRISON. HE LOST 21 POUNDS!



THE NEXT DAY, HE BROUGHT SOME COPRA AND JAGGERY. TILAK DECIDED TO LIE TO PUT HIM OFF.



I CAN'T EAT THESE. I HAVE A SORE MOUTH.

I'LL GET YOU ALMONDS AND SUGAR CANDY THEN.

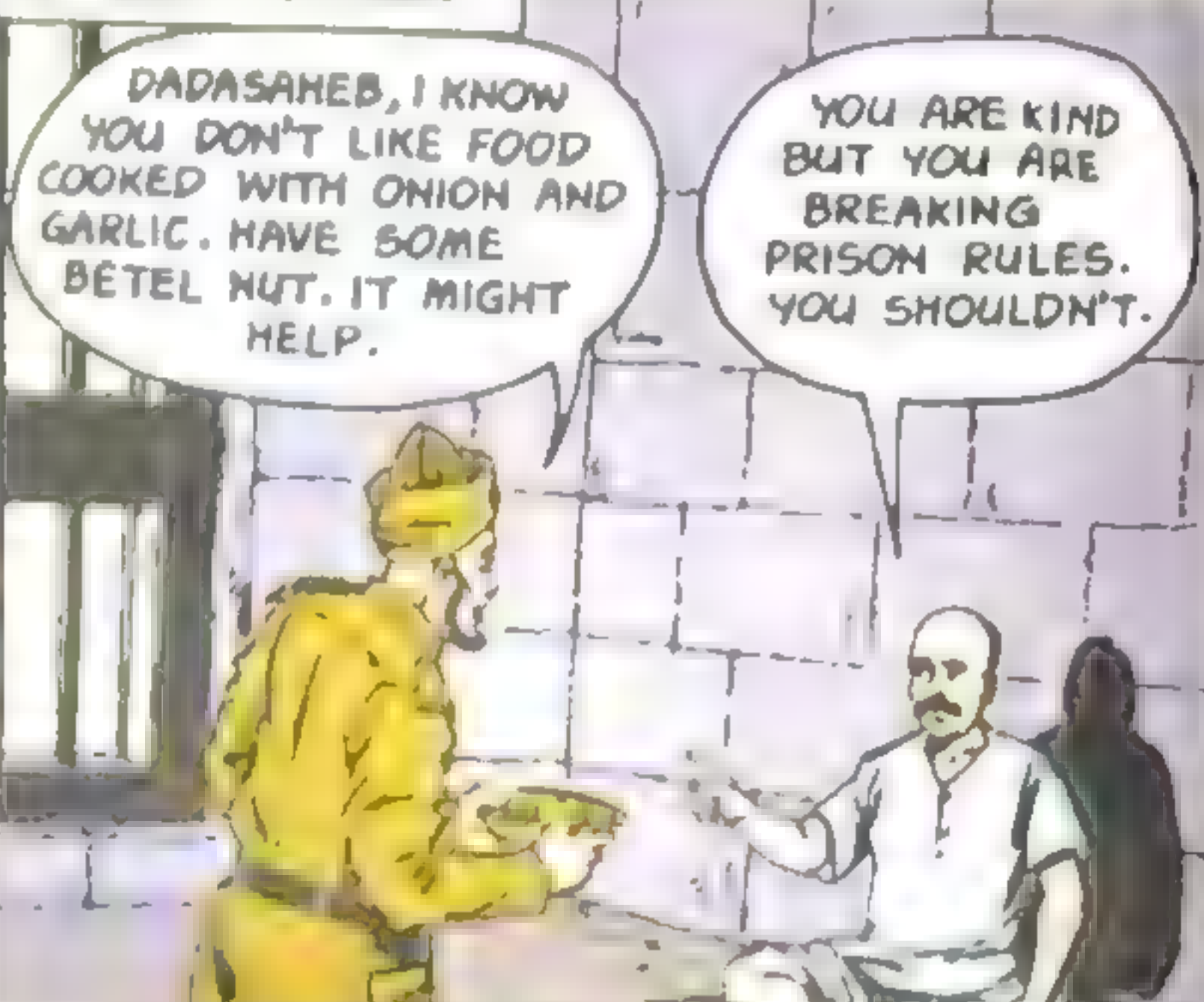
TILAK HAD TO ACCEPT DEFEAT BEFORE SUCH PERSISTENCE.

AS EXPECTED THE COURT FOUND TILAK GUILTY. THE SENTENCE WAS EIGHTEEN MONTHS' RIGOROUS IMPRISONMENT. WHEN THE NEWS REACHED HIS WIFE, SHE FELL SERIOUSLY ILL.



BEG THE GOVERNMENT TO IMPRISON ME TOO! I HAVE BEEN HIS PARTNER IN EVERYTHING.

HOWEVER, A MUSLIM WARDER TRIED TO BE OF HELP TO HIM.



DADASAHEB, I KNOW YOU DON'T LIKE FOOD COOKED WITH ONION AND GARLIC. HAVE SOME BETEL NUT. IT MIGHT HELP.

YOU ARE KIND BUT YOU ARE BREAKING PRISON RULES. YOU SHOULDN'T.

* WHERE POLITICAL PRISONERS USED TO BE DEPORTED

WHEN TILAK WAS SHIFTED FROM BOMBAY TO YERAVDA JAIL, CHAPHEKAR WHO HAD BEEN CAUGHT AND SENTENCED TO DEATH, TOOK SPECIAL PERMISSION TO MEET HIM IN HIS CELL.



BALWANTRAO, I WANT TO DIE WITH THE GITA IN MY HAND. WILL YOU GIVE ME YOUR COPY?

WITH PLEASURE!



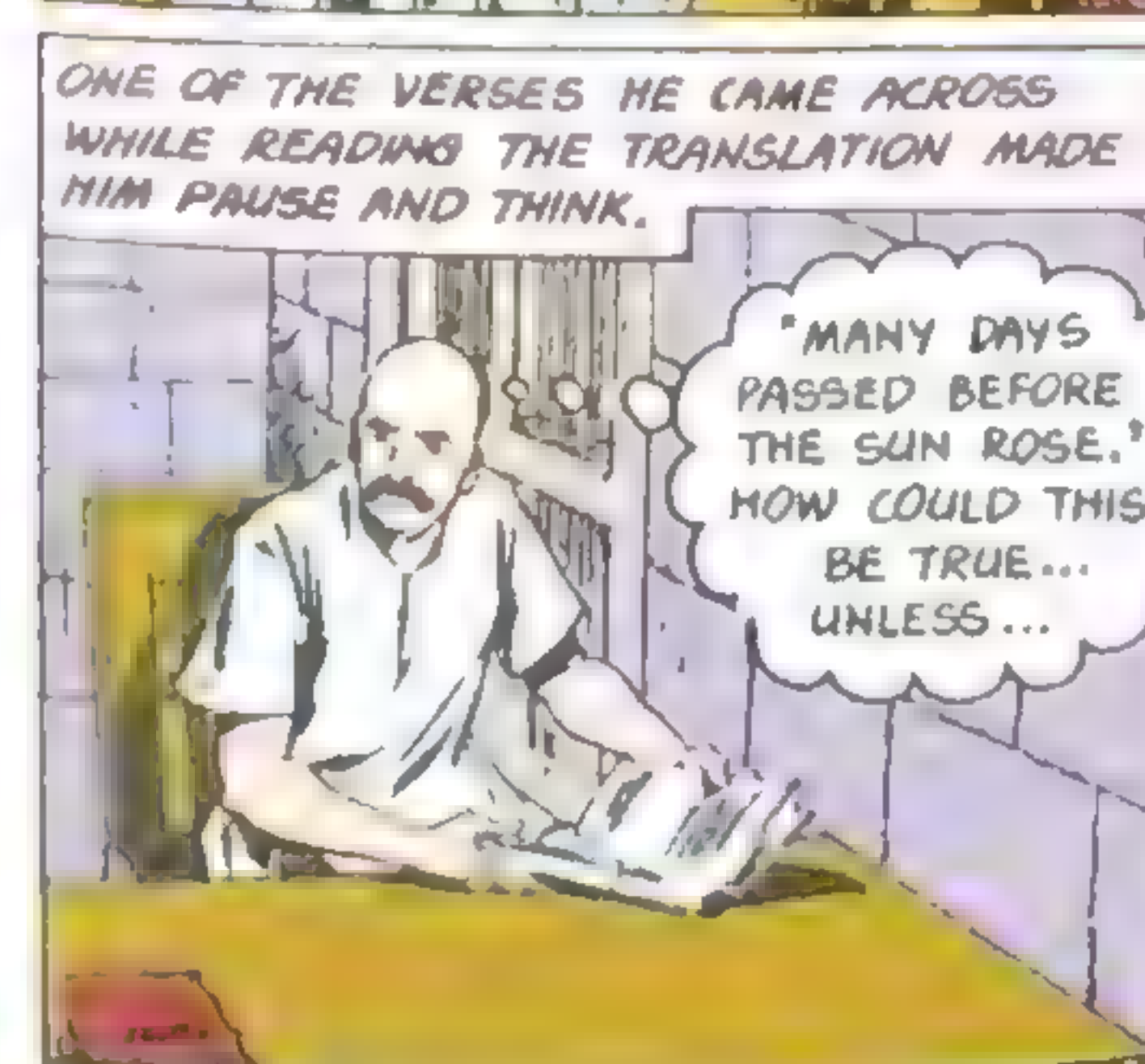
HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN MISGUIDED IN KILLING RAND. BUT CAN ANYONE DOUBT HIS PATRIOTISM?

A FEW DAYS LATER, A BENGALI GENTLEMAN CALLED ON TILAK.

PROF. MAX MUELLER HAS SENT YOU A GIFT—HIS TRANSLATION OF THE RIG VEDA. HE IS TRYING HIS BEST TO HAVE YOU RELEASED.

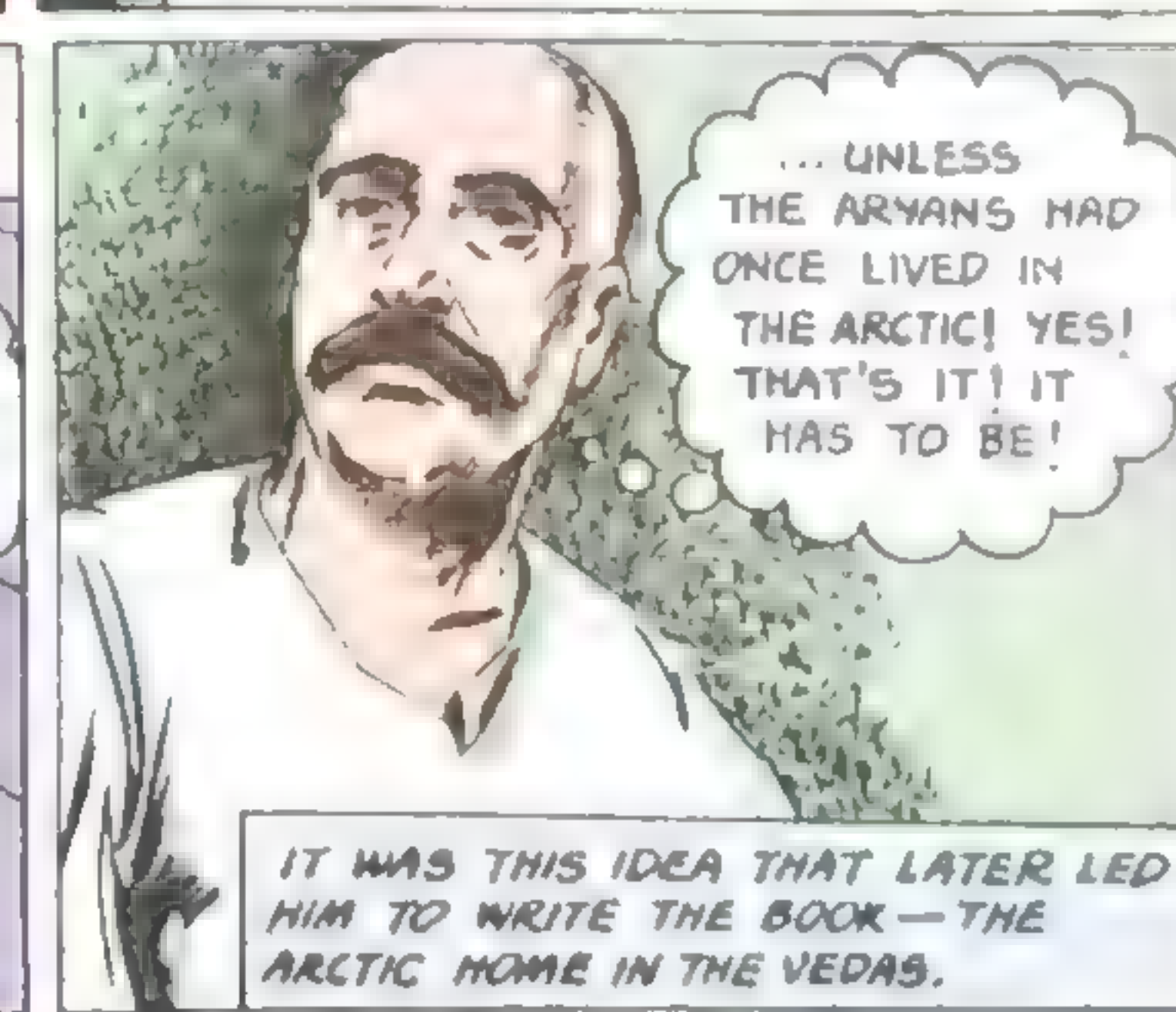
I AM HONOURED AND GRATEFUL.

THE RARE GIFT FROM THE FAMOUS GERMAN SCHOLAR WON FOR TILAK FACILITIES FOR READING AND WRITING IN HIS CELL.



ONE OF THE VERSES HE CAME ACROSS WHILE READING THE TRANSLATION MADE HIM PAUSE AND THINK.

"MANY DAYS PASSED BEFORE THE SUN ROSE." HOW COULD THIS BE TRUE... UNLESS...



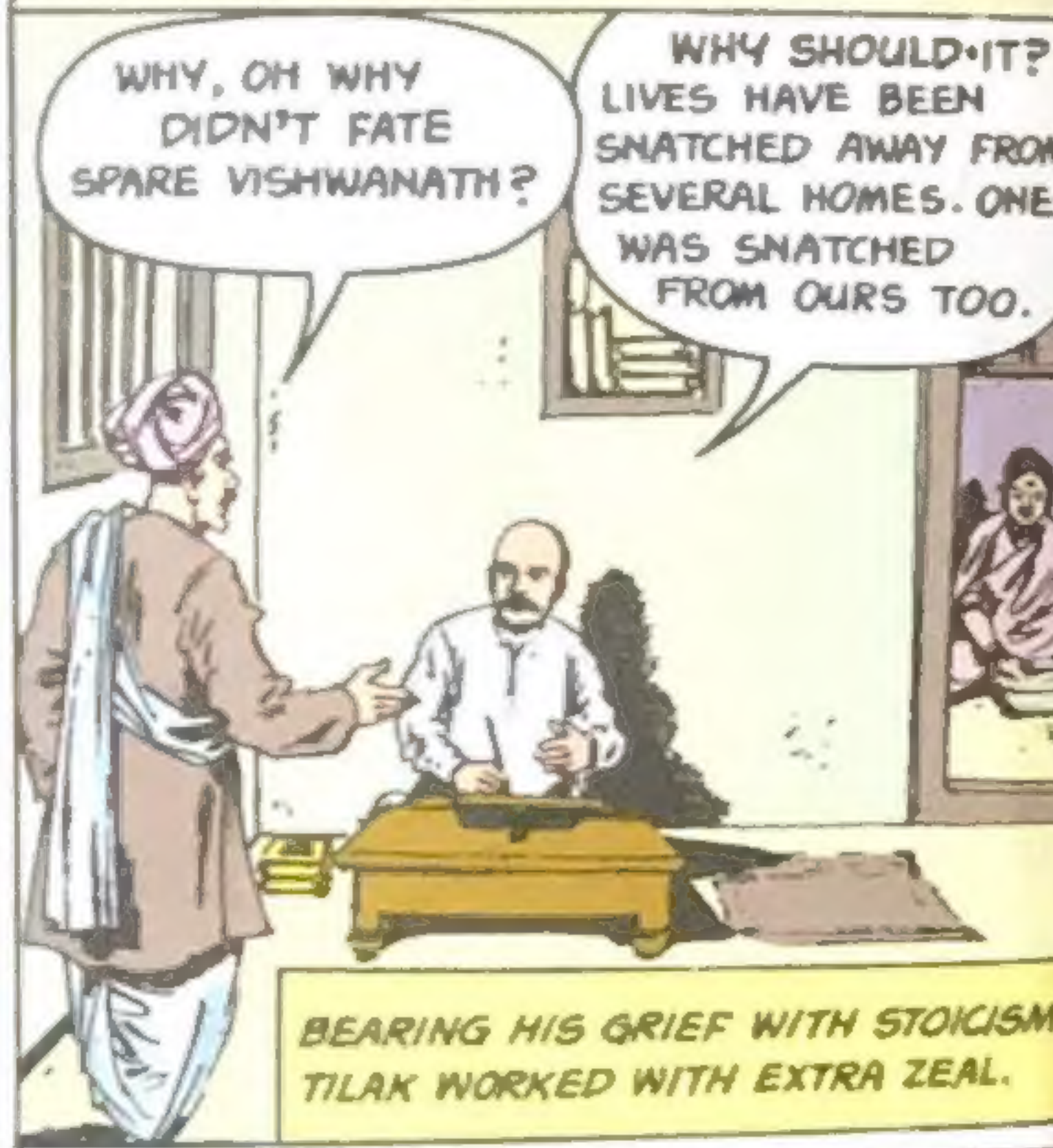
... UNLESS THE ARYANS HAD ONCE LIVED IN THE ARCTIC! YES! THAT'S IT! IT HAS TO BE!

IT WAS THIS IDEA THAT LATER LED HIM TO WRITE THE BOOK—THE ARCTIC HOME IN THE VEDAS.

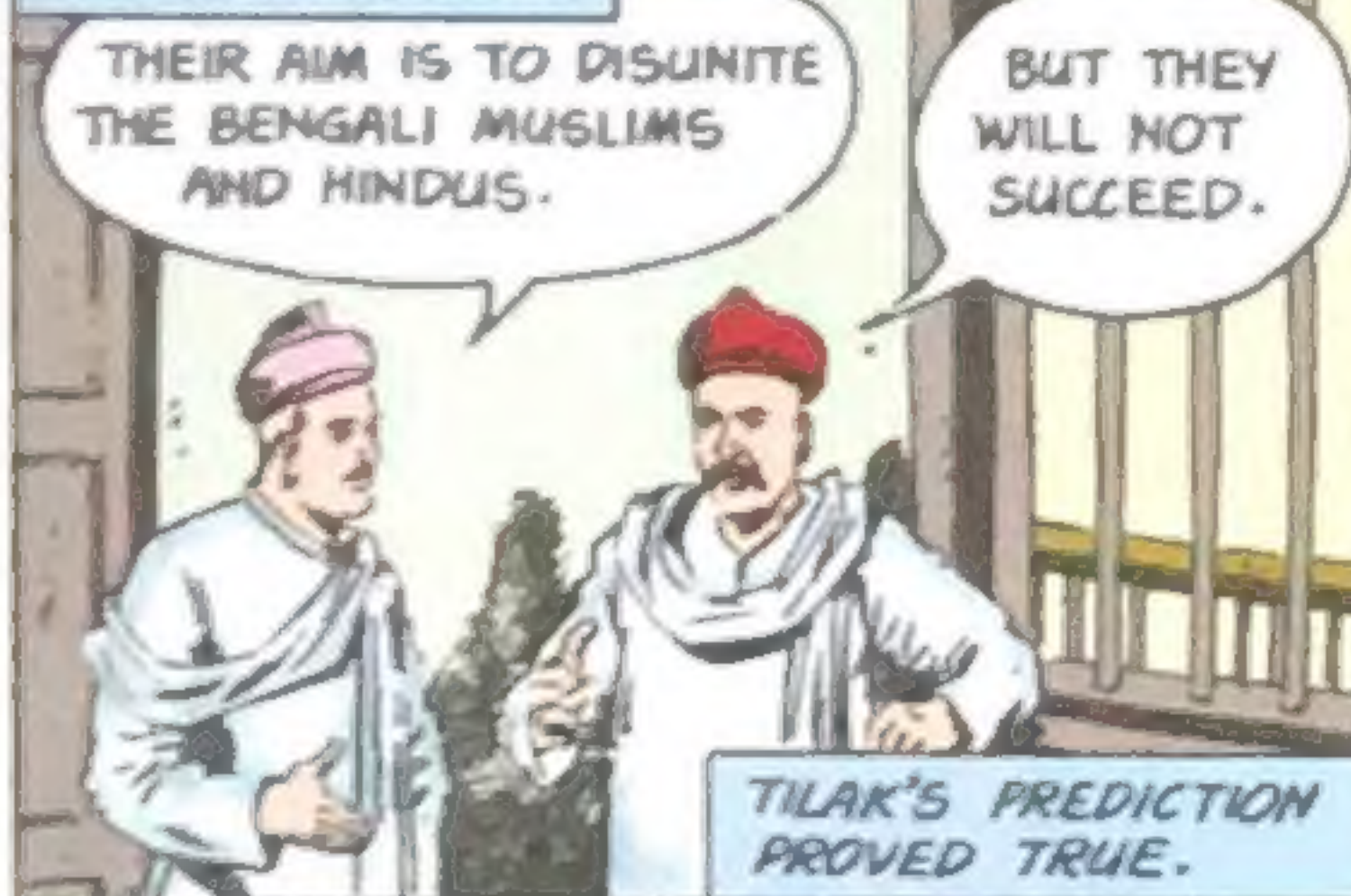
AT LAST ON SEPTEMBER 6, 1898, TILAK WAS RELEASED. THE TEMPLE BELLS OF PUNE RANG OUT ECHOING THE JOY OF THE PEOPLE.



FIVE YEARS LATER, THE PLAGUE BROKE OUT AGAIN IN PUNE. THIS TIME IT CLAIMED TILAK'S ELDEST SON.



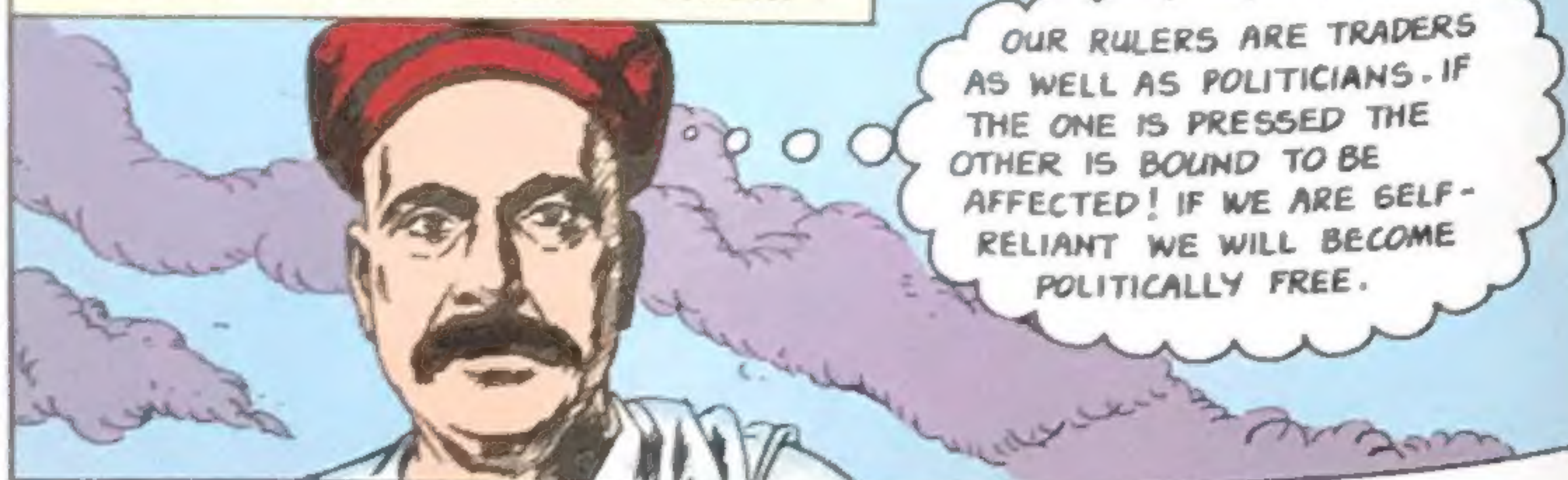
THEN IN JULY 1905, LORD CURZON ANNOUNCED THE PARTITION OF BENGAL. THE PARTITION CAME INTO FORCE ON OCTOBER 16, 1905.



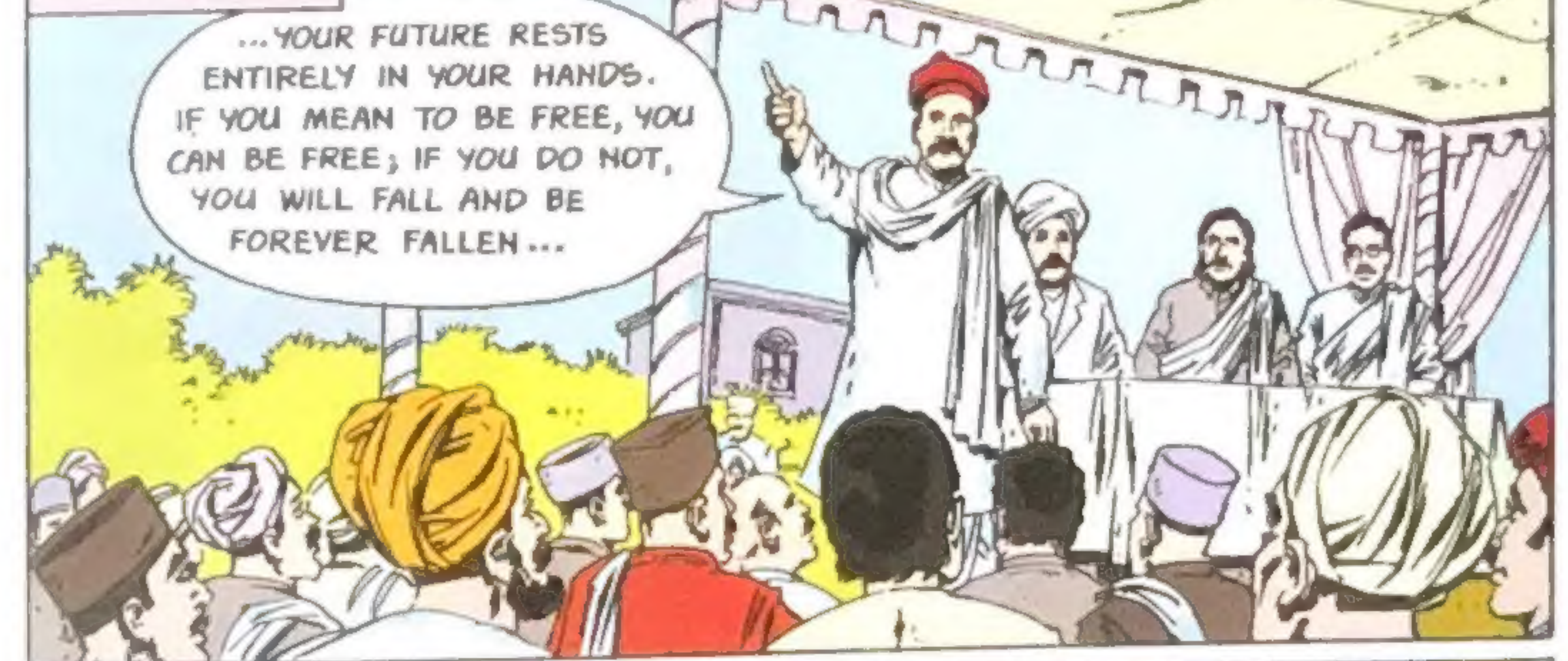
THE PARTITION ONLY GAVE FURTHER IMPETUS TO THE SWADESHI MOVEMENT. IN PUNE AS IN THE REST OF INDIA, PEOPLE BOYCOTTED FOREIGN GOODS. STUDENTS MADE A HUGE BONFIRE OF FOREIGN CLOTHES, THE FIRST OF MANY TO COME.



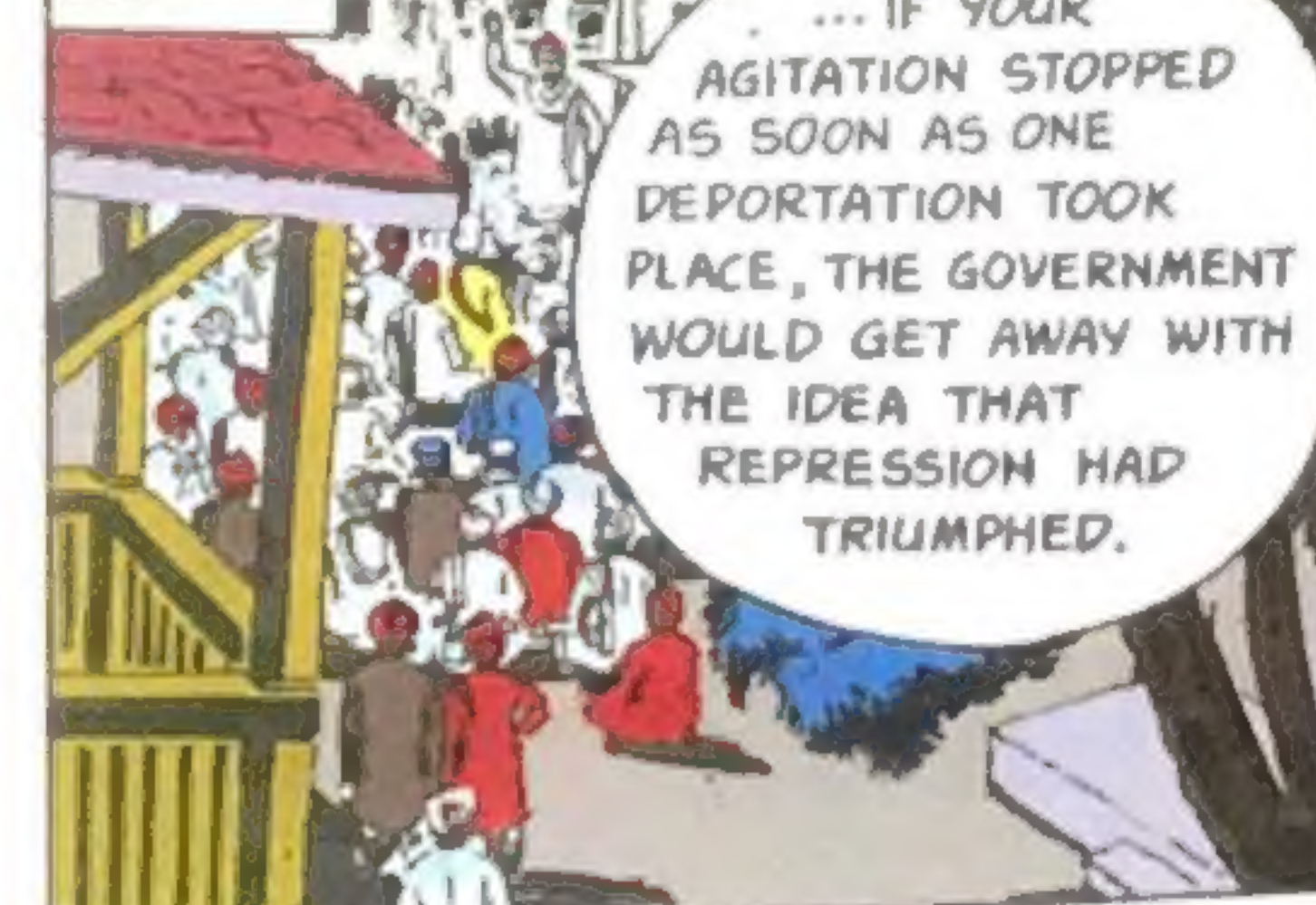
TILAK STARTED A GLASS FACTORY AT TALEGAON AND A CO-OPERATIVE STORE FOR THE SALE OF SWADESHI GOODS IN BOMBAY.



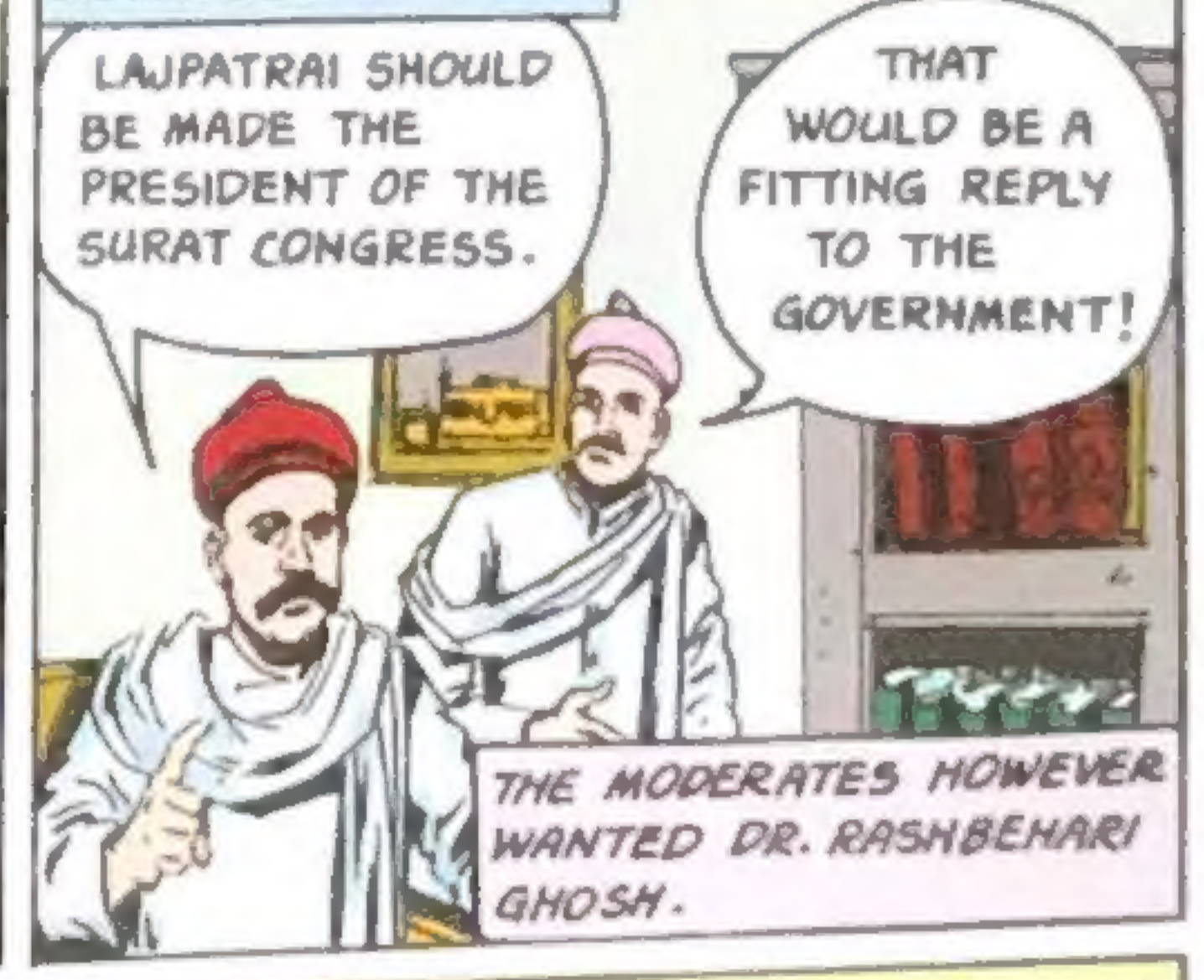
SINCE SWARAJ WAS THE GOAL OF TILAK AND HIS FRIENDS, LIKE LALA LAJPATRAI OF PUNJAB AND AUROBINDO GHOSE OF BENGAL, THEY CAME TO BE KNOWN AS NATIONALISTS.



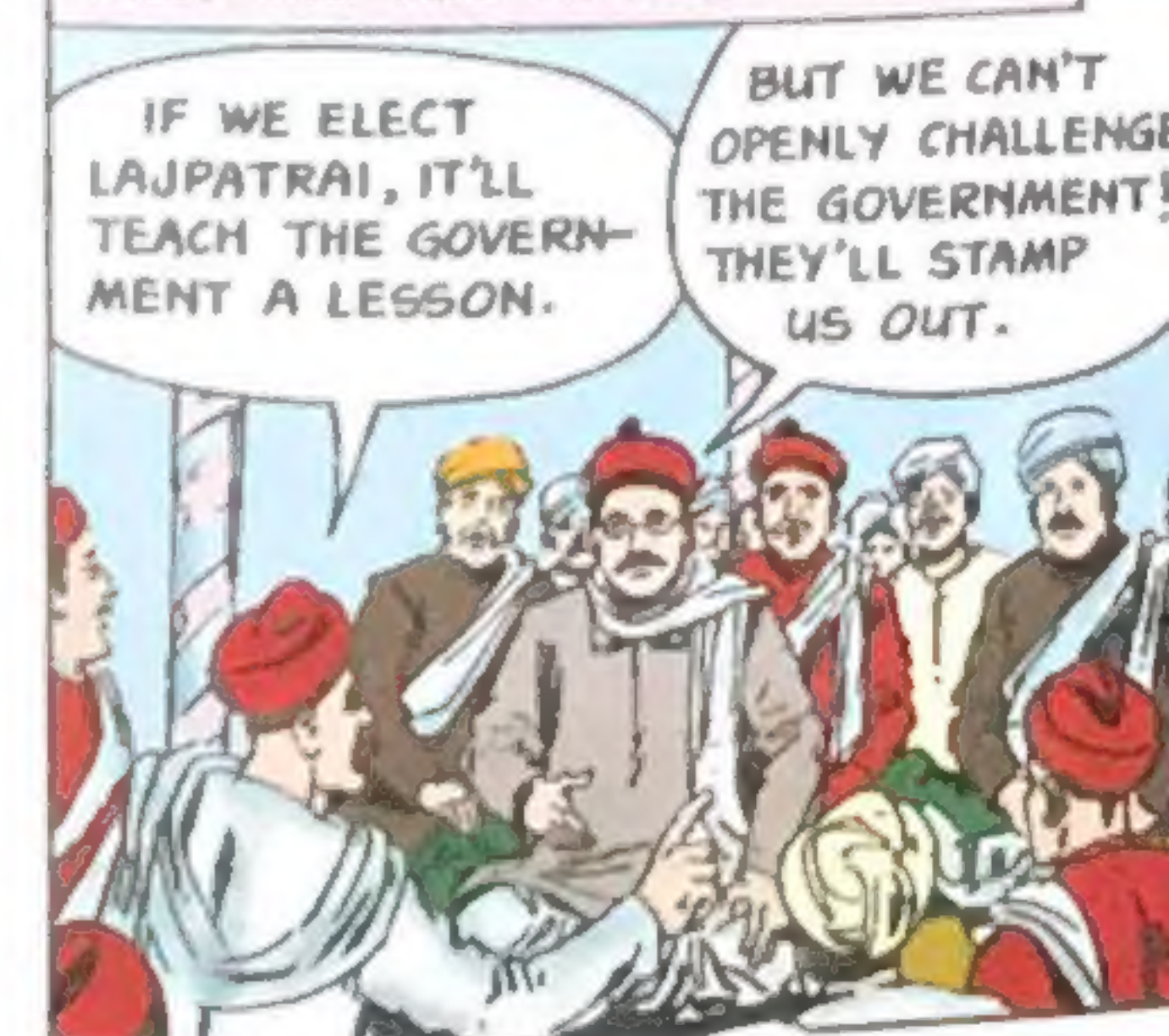
THE GOVERNMENT TRIED IN VAIN TO CURB THE NATIONALISTS. LALA LAJPATRAI WAS DEPORTED TO MANDALAY IN BURMA. BUT —



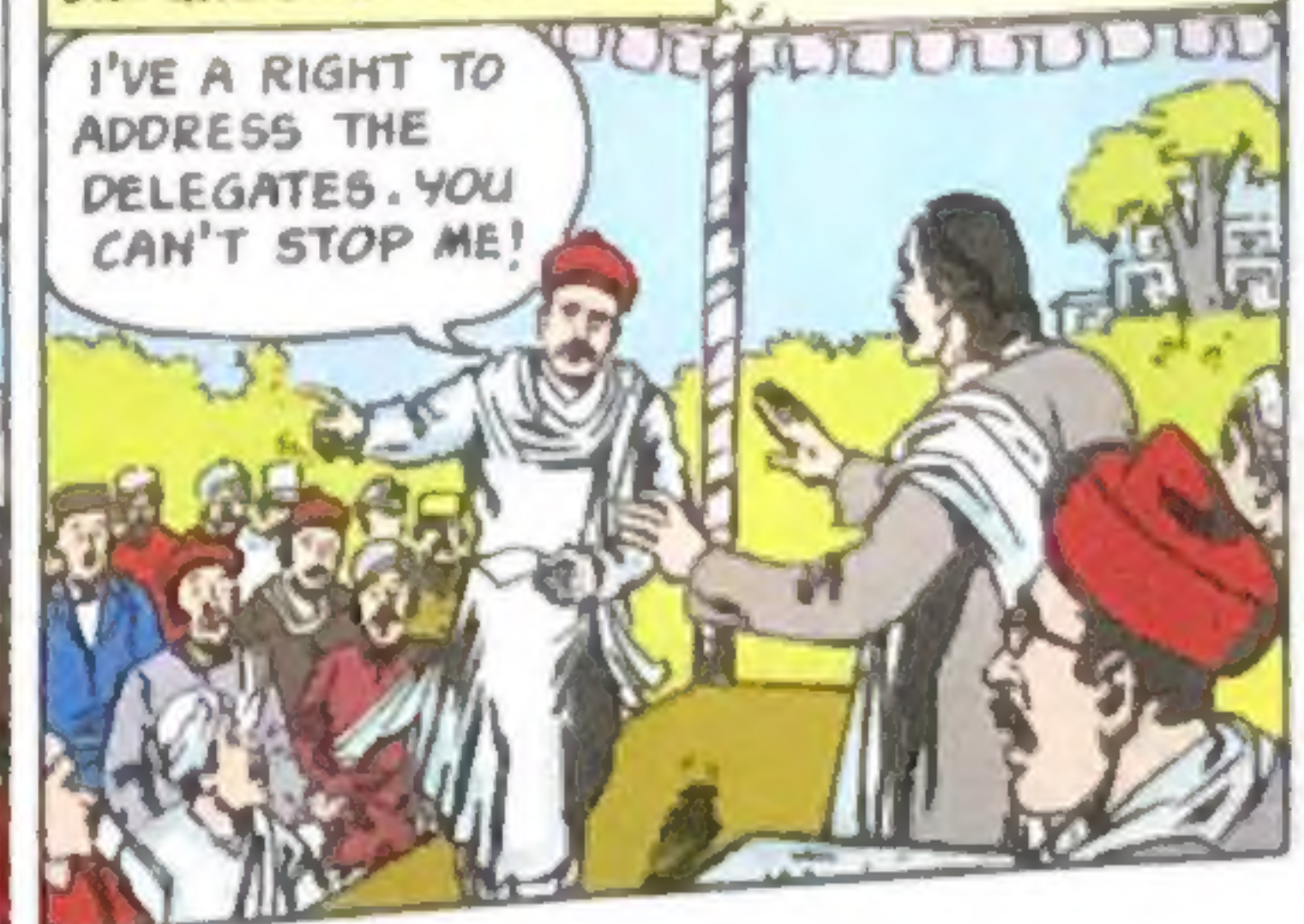
WHEN LAJPATRAI WAS RELEASED IN NOVEMBER 1907 —



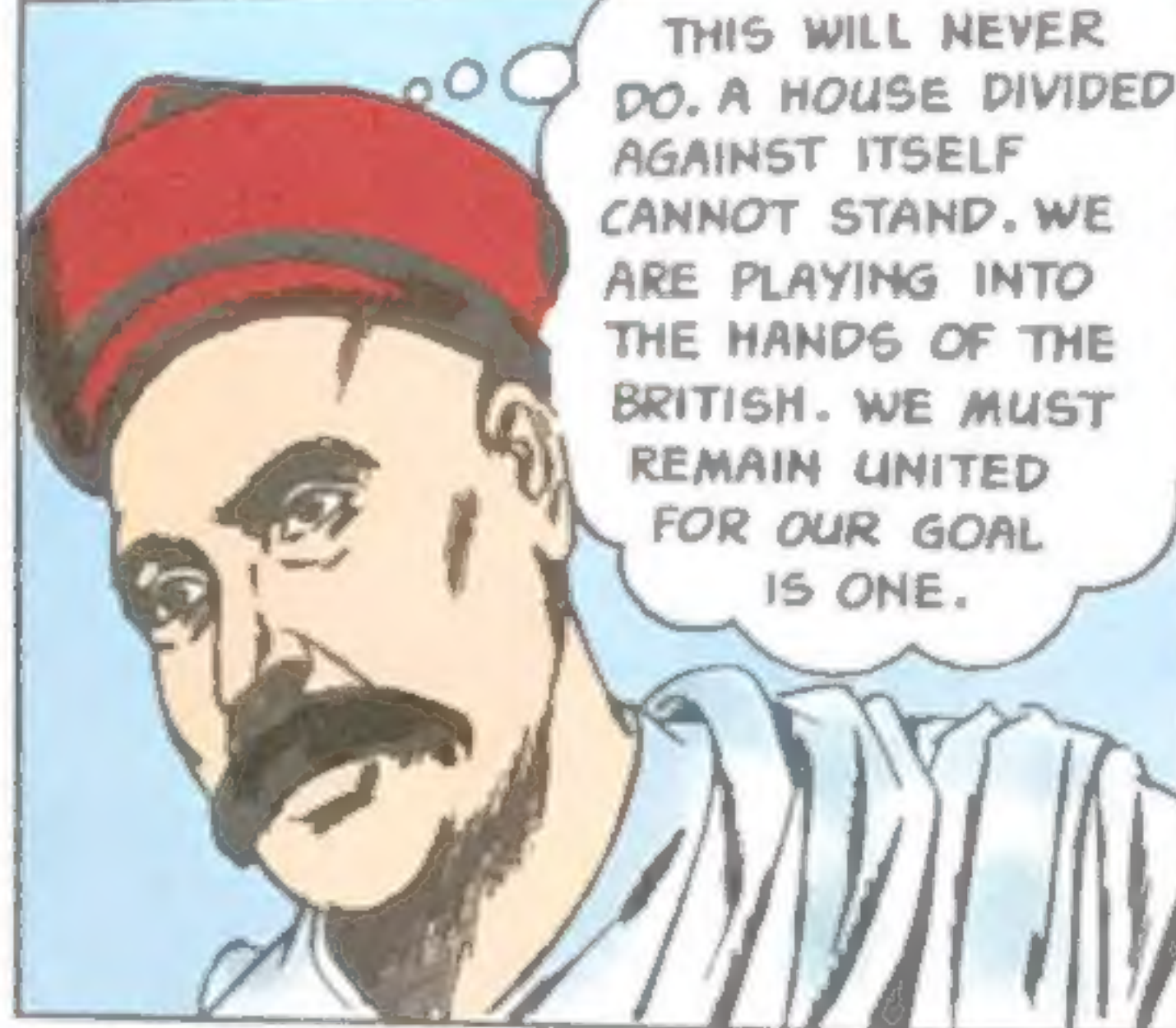
WHEN THE TWO PARTIES MET —



AT THE CONGRESS SESSION IN SURAT, TILAK WAS NOT ALLOWED TO SPEAK BEFORE DR. GHOSH'S ELECTION.



BUT THEY DID AND THE CONGRESS SPLIT INTO TWO GROUPS.



THIS WILL NEVER DO. A HOUSE DIVIDED AGAINST ITSELF CANNOT STAND. WE ARE PLAYING INTO THE HANDS OF THE BRITISH. WE MUST REMAIN UNITED FOR OUR GOAL IS ONE.

AROUND THIS TIME, REVOLUTIONARIES WHO BELIEVED IN VIOLENCE BECAME ACTIVE. ON APRIL 30, 1908 THE FIRST BOMB WAS THROWN AT THE BRITISH RESIDENTS OF MUZAFFARPUR.



THE CASE AGAINST TILAK CAME UP BEFORE THE BOMBAY HIGH COURT. THE ADVOCATE-GENERAL QUOTED FROM THE ARTICLE TO PRESS HIS CLAIM THAT TILAK WAS GUILTY.



"THE BOMB PARTY HAS COME INTO EXISTENCE AS A RESULT OF THE OPPRESSION PRACTISED BY THE OFFICIAL CLASS ...THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS CALAMITY MUST, THEREFORE, BE THROWN NOT ON POLITICAL AGITATION, WRITINGS, OR SPEECHES BUT ON THE THOUGHTLESSNESS AND THE OBSTINACY OF THE OFFICIAL CLASS."

THE EXPLOSION ECHOED THROUGH THE COUNTRY. THE GOVERNMENT SWUNG INTO ACTION AND SEVERAL JOURNALISTS WERE JAILED.



TILAK, I WANT TO GIVE YOU A TIP. THE GOVERNMENT IS PLANNING TO ARREST YOU.

WHAT DOES IT MATTER? THE WHOLE COUNTRY IS LIKE A VAST PRISON. THEY ARE NOW GOING TO CONFINED ME IN A SMALLER ONE.

A FEW DAYS LATER, TILAK WAS ARRESTED. THE CHARGE WAS SEDITION; THE OFFENCE, AN ARTICLE HE HAD WRITTEN.

TILAK CONTENDED THAT WHILE HE DEPLORED THE USE OF BOMBS THE ONLY WAY TO PREVENT SUCH OCCURRENCES WAS TO REFORM THE ADMINISTRATION. HE MADE A FERVENT APPEAL TO THE JURY.

...FOR ME IT CAN ONLY BE A MATTER OF A FEW YEARS, BUT FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL LOOK TO YOUR VERDICT AND SEE WHETHER YOU HAVE JUDGED WRONG OR RIGHT. THE VERDICT MAY LIKELY BE A MEMORABLE ONE IN THE HISTORY OF THE FREEDOM OF THE INDIAN PRESS...



WHEN THE JURY FOUND HIM GUILTY —



I MAINTAIN THAT I AM INNOCENT....IT MAY BE THE WILL OF PROVIDENCE THAT THE CAUSE WHICH I REPRESENT MAY PROSPER MORE BY MY SUFFERINGS THAN BY MY REMAINING FREE.

TILAK WAS SENTENCED TO TRANSPORTATION FOR SIX YEARS. IN BOMBAY A SIX-DAY STRIKE WAS OBSERVED AND ALL THE TEXTILE MILLS WERE CLOSED.



THE POLICE FIRED INDISCRIMINATELY AT THE DEMONSTRATORS.



TILAK WAS DEPORTED TO MANDALAY. 'BANDE MATARAM' THE BENGALI WEEKLY, BID HIM A PATHETIC FAREWELL.



GO, TILAK, WHEREVER YOU MAY BE SENT TO CRUSH YOUR BODY... THE CANKER OF THE CHAINS WILL NOT ONLY EAT INTO YOUR LIMBS BUT ALSO INTO EVERY HEART OF THE COUNTRY TO STIR IT UP TO ITS DUTY. YOU HAVE FULFILLED YOUR MISSION...

TILAK SPENT FIVE YEARS AND EIGHT MONTHS IN MANDALAY. HIS SOLE COMPANIONS WERE BOOKS AND BIRDS.

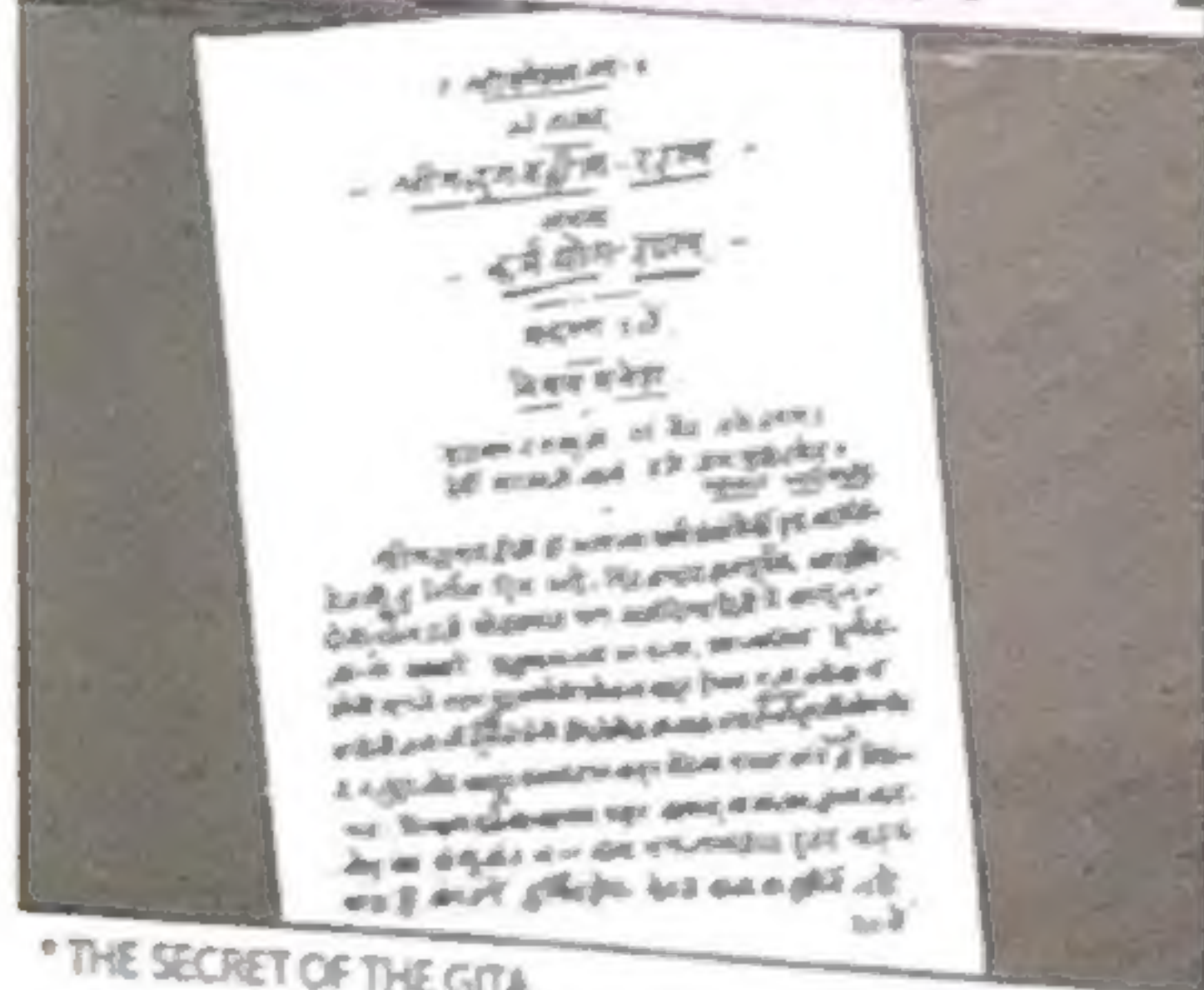


TILAK'S PROLONGED DETENTION TOTALLY UNNERVED HIS WIFE AND SHE DIED WHEN HE WAS IN MANDALAY. WHEN THE JAILOR CAME INTO TILAK'S CELL —

I'M SORRY. IT MUST BE A GREAT LOSS TO YOU.

ONE OF US HAD TO FACE THE OTHER'S DEATH. I AM GLAD IT IS I. I ONLY WISH I COULD HAVE BEEN WITH HER WHEN THE END CAME.

HE BEGAN TO WRITE A TREATISE ON THE GITA — THE GITA RAHASYA*.



* THE SECRET OF THE GITA



ON JUNE 17, 1914 AT 2-00 A.M. THERE WAS A KNOCK AT GAIKWAD WADA, TILAK'S RESIDENCE.



IT'S ME. THE MASTER OF THE HOUSE.

THE WHOLE HOUSEHOLD WOKE UP. TILAK WAS BACK!



THE NEWS SPREAD. FRIENDS CAME RUNNING TO HIS HOUSE. THEY TALKED TILL DAYBREAK.



TELL ME WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE COUNTRY.

LALA LAJPATRAI, BIPIN CHANDRA PAL AND AUROBINDO HAVE GONE INTO SELF-IMPOSED EXILE. THE PRESS IS GAGGED. NATIONAL SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED.

SOME WELL-WISHERS TRIED TO DISSUADE TILAK FROM TAKING PART IN POLITICS.

DADA, GIVE UP POLITICS NOW AT LEAST. DEVOTE YOUR TIME TO LITERATURE.

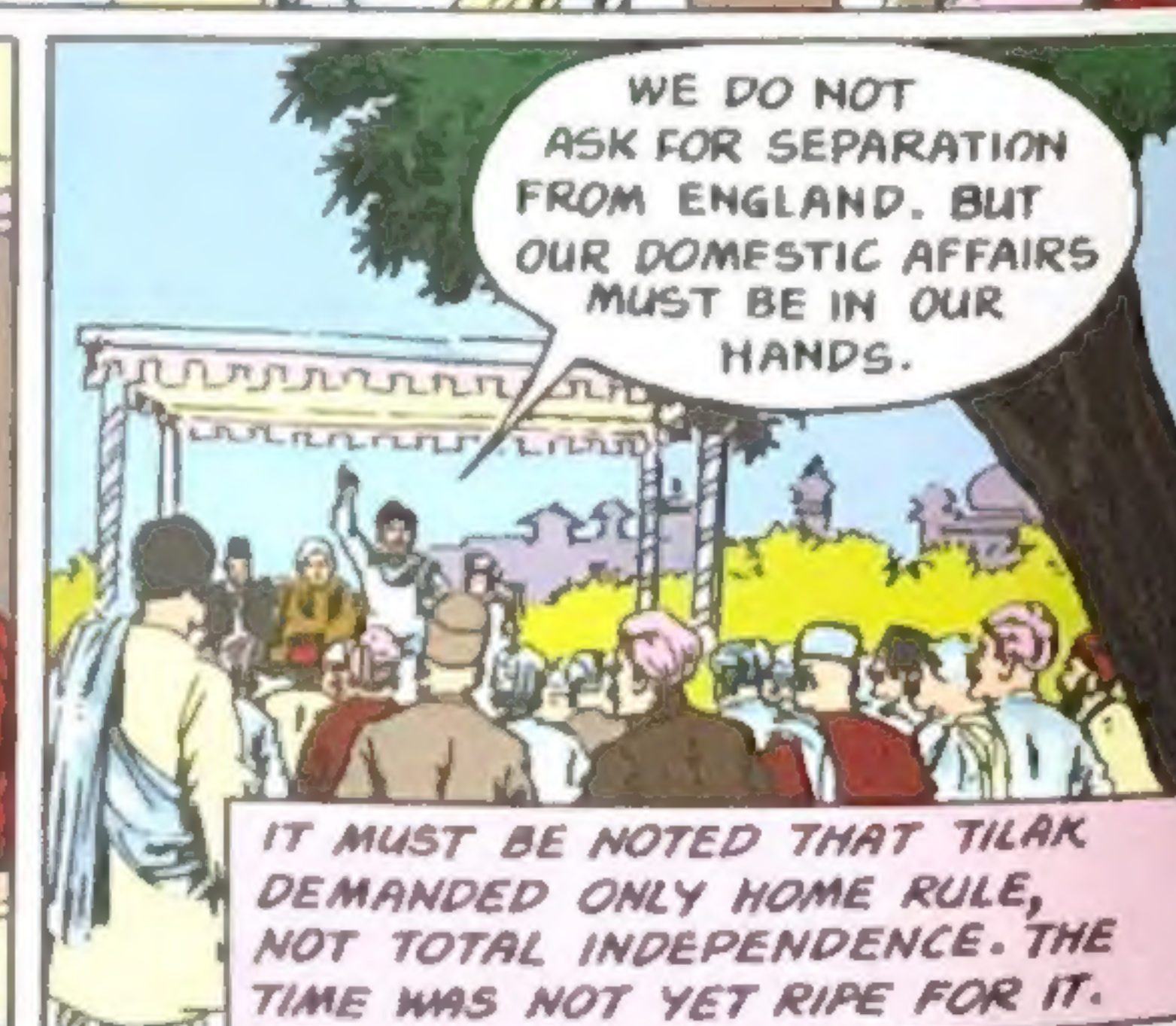
WHAT! INDULGE IN LITERATURE WHEN THE COUNTRY IS ROTTING IN SLAVERY?



SOMEBODY HAS TO DO THE WORK I AM DOING. IF NO ONE DOES IT, THE BRITISH WILL RULE AS THEY LIKE.



TILAK TOOK UP THE CAUSE OF HOME RULE, THE PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO FORM THEIR OWN GOVERNMENT. HE TOURED ALL OVER INDIA AND SPOKE TO THE PEOPLE.



IT MUST BE NOTED THAT TILAK DEMANDED ONLY HOME RULE, NOT TOTAL INDEPENDENCE. THE TIME WAS NOT YET RIPE FOR IT.

TILAK BY THEN HAD COME TO BE REVERED AS LOKAMANYA* BY PEOPLE ALL OVER INDIA. WHEN HE WENT TO LUCKNOW TO ATTEND THE CONGRESS SESSION, FOLLOWING THE UNIFICATION OF THE MODERATES AND NATIONALISTS, HE WAS TAKEN OUT IN PROCESSION.



* RESPECTED BY THE PEOPLE

SOME ENTHUSIASTIC YOUTHS UNHARNESSED THE HORSES AND DREW THE CARRIAGE THEMSELVES.



AT THE LUCKNOW CONGRESS —

SWARAJ IS MY BIRTHRIGHT AND I SHALL HAVE IT.



LATER, TILAK VISITED ENGLAND TO PRESENT INDIA'S CASE FOR HOME RULE...



... AND WON MANY FRIENDS, NOTABLY FROM THE LABOUR PARTY.

ON AUGUST 1, 1920, EXACTLY EIGHT MONTHS AFTER HIS RETURN TO INDIA, TILAK DIED. BUT THE CAUSE FOR WHICH HE FOUGHT WAS TAKEN UP BY MILLIONS OF HIS COUNTRYMEN.

BRITISHERS, QUIT INDIA!



AND TILAK'S LIFELONG STRUGGLE AT LAST BORE FRUIT ON AUGUST 15, 1947, WHEN INDIA BECAME INDEPENDENT.